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Connecting - July 02, 2019

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Connecting

July 02, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 2nd day of July 2019,

We lead today's Connecting with first colleague reaction to the Monday story on how seven AP newswomen sued the AP and won a lawsuit in 1983 with a \$2 million settlement that provided for back pay, training, promotion goals and bonuses for AP's female and black journalists.

The photo distributed worldwide by the AP of the migrant father and his daughter found dead on the banks of the Rio Grande River spurred soul-searching by the AP on providing it and members on publishing or airing it.

What are your thoughts?

Have a great day.

Paul

I remain grateful to the women who forged the way for us'

Sue Price Johnson ([Email](#)) - I enjoyed Martha Waggoner's story (in Monday's Connecting) on the discrimination case against the AP. I was a grateful recipient of back pay and training.

And while I really loved my first bureau chief, Joe Dill, he was part of the guy's club in the AP. I remember him telling me that I could never be a bureau chief because "publisher's wives wouldn't like it if a woman took their husbands out to dinner." By the time I became a bureau chief, I was hardly alone in a leadership role in the business in North Carolina. There were female publishers at member newspapers ranging from The Charlotte Observer to the Shelby Star and many others.

I remain grateful to the women who forged the way for us.

Why we published a border deaths photo



The bodies of Salvadoran migrant Oscar Alberto Martínez Ramírez and his 23-month-old daughter, Valeria, lie on the bank of the Rio Grande in Matamoros, Mexico, June 24, 2019, after they drowned trying to cross the river to Brownsville, Texas. (AP Photo/Julia Le Duc)

By John Daniszewski ([Email](#))

AP Standards Editor

AP decided on Tuesday (June 24) to publish a photo of the bodies of a man and his 23-month-old daughter discovered Monday on the bank of the Rio Grande near Matamoros, Mexico, across the river from Brownsville, Texas.

It is, we feel, a highly newsworthy and important image directly relevant to this ongoing story. After lengthy discussions among editors in New York and Mexico City, we decided to publish the image on the wire.

Images like this can be difficult to look at. But they also convey the reality of the border, where hundreds of people die each year attempting to cross into the United States illegally.

The AP does not transmit highly graphic or disturbing photographs for their own sake. We also avoid images that are gratuitously violent. But we have through our history made the decision at times to show disturbing images that are important and

that can convey the human cost of war, civil unrest or other tragic events in a way that words alone cannot.

We published the photo on apnews.com, accompanied by a story that includes the broader context of the current situation on the border, as well as an account by Ramirez's wife of the drownings, as told to Mexican police.

We also sent the photo to our member news organizations and customers, along with an alert to its graphic nature, so that they could make their own judgments about whether to publish it.

We feel that distributing this image is consistent with the AP's values and principles to bring factual information to the world.

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Click [here](#) for a Poynter story: "Good editors must be thoughtful when showing readers hard truths, like photos of dead bodies"

Click [here](#) for The New York Times story: "Why The Times Published a Photo of Drowned Migrants"

Click [here](#) for The Washington Post story: "A searing photo of deaths at the border forces media outlets to decide: Publish or not?"

Connecting mailbox

Memories sparked by Jack Ruby trial

Charles Richards ([Email](#)) - Monday's Connecting told of Dallas AP newswoman Peggy Simpson's frustration at being replaced by a male colleague to cover the Jack Ruby trial in 1964.

In January 1964, as the Ruby trial was in progress, I was completing my journalism studies at Texas Tech. I had just received a letter from the draft board, ordering me to report for a physical and tests for induction into the Army.

I reported for my physical, which I passed, but instead of being drafted, I enlisted in the Army Reserves and took advantage of an option to pick my MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) and to delay my entry into service for four months.

UPI hired me and assigned me to its Albuquerque bureau, where I was working on March 4, 1964, when Ruby was convicted and sentenced to death for shooting and accused killing JFK assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, which was witnessed by millions on live TV n Nov. 24, 1963, in the basement of the Dallas police station..

There were no women among our four-person UPI office in Albuquerque, and I don't believe there were any among the AP staff in Albuquerque. (I also recalled that the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, which I had frequented during my years at Tech, had no women in its newsroom, other than "society page" staff.)

After four months in Albuquerque, I reported in June 1964 to Fort Polk, La., for eight weeks of basic training. (Incidentally, only weeks later, on Aug. 2, 1964, North Korean torpedo patrol boats fired on the USS Mattox, an event that triggered the U.S. entrance into the Vietnam War.).

After two months of basic training, I spent September through December 1964 in advanced training as a communications center specialist at the Army's Signal Corps headquarters at Fort Gordon, Georgia.

In December 1964, my basic training completed, UPI assigned me to its Southwest regional headquarters in Dallas, which - incidentally - had an all-male newsroom.

While I was at UPI Albuquerque, I dated Jacqueline Stern of Clovis, N.M. -- an extremely competent journalism graduate in 1964 from the University of Kansas -- whom the Albuquerque Journal (which housed both the AP and UPI bureaus) had hired as a reporter.

During my basic and advanced training, she and I exchanged letters two or three days a week. When we learned I would be working for UPI in Dallas, she applied by mail for a reporting job at The Dallas Morning News, signing her application "J.K. Stern." She got an immediate reply, inviting her to come to Dallas for an interview.

She flew to Dallas right away, but she didn't get the job. The interviewer was surprised to discover that "J.K. Stern" was a female. She turned down an offer to work on the "women's page" staff and went to Washington instead as press secretary for U.S. Sen. Clayton Anderson (D-N.M.).

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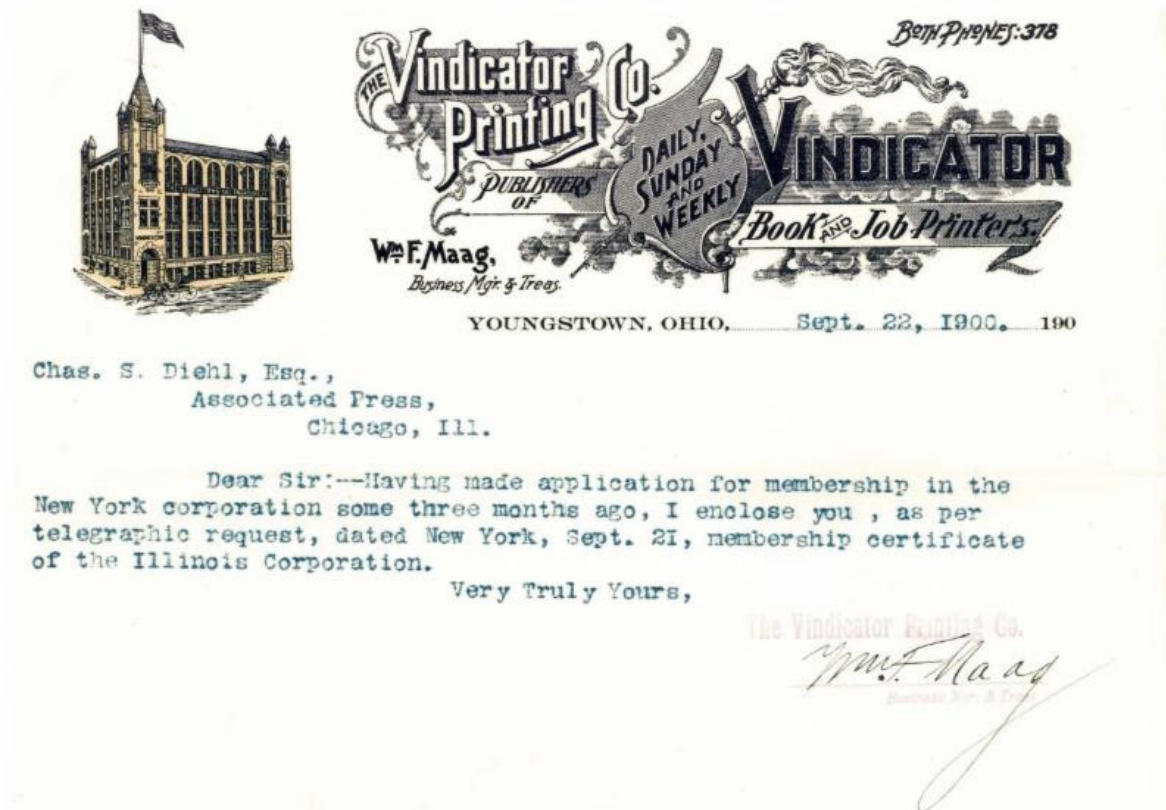
Reinforced admiration for AP reporters, editors

Jim Carlson ([Email](#)) - The July 1 Connecting only reinforced my admiration for AP reporters and editors for their investigative work.

When so many these days are confusing fact and fiction, the AP reports hit home with factual coverage on mistreatment of migrant children held at the southern border, and on the inaccurate EPA air pollution data released as the government approved a weakening of clean-air rules to benefit the coal industry.

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The Vindicator - and a link to the past





Francesca Pitaro (Email) - I was sorry to read about the demise of the Vindicator (of Youngstown, Ohio) in Monday's Connecting. I wanted to share a piece of the Vindicator's (and AP's) history from a collection of early membership records in the AP Corporate Archives. This letter from William F. Maag was sent to the AP along with the Vindicator's AP of Illinois contract. When the AP of Illinois was dissolved in 1900, member contracts were cancelled and were then renegotiated under New York law with the incorporation of the AP in New York on May 23rd of that year.

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Dave and Andy at the Norton Simon



Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - Andy Lippman and I made our rendezvous Sunday at the Norton Simon gallery near his South Pasadena home. My wife Pam took this picture. Those are the Burghers of Calais behind us. Our daughter Elizabeth was doing Disneyland with our Mexican friend Mayela. This was the last day of a two-week trailer trip showing Mayela the sights of the western U.S. - Yosemite was her favorite.

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Revealing an event kept in depths of his soul

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Responding, again, to Connecting's series on Encounters - threatening events to a journalist's life - I left out an event that was so deeply personal that I have kept down in the depths of my soul.

It involves one day in Korea, in 1950, when, as an Associated Press War Correspondent, I faced a life-threatening event, one that I buried the memory of deep down in a secure spot in my being.



It was a quiet day on the battlefronts, so I headed for a British unit just north of Taegu, and on the Naktong River. I hitched a ride to the front, walked across a big open sandy beach - not knowing the enemy was watching - across the river on a little floating military bridge with grooves only for the trucks, up a hill to a crude Command Post in the dirt. I stopped, introduced myself to a low-ranking British officer, shot the bull about their plans for the day. It was peaceful, at least for a war, and at least for the moment.

Suddenly, we received a radio call saying the British troops had just been hit by U.S. jet fighters, which strafed and bombed them. It was an accident. However, the British ground fighters had asked for an intervention. The troops did not move their ground battlefront banner, which indicated their position. In essence, the British asked for an air-strike on the enemy, but then moved into the enemy territory without

moving the banner. The American pilots, moving so fast, didn't know this, but did what the protocol called for. The strike killed and wounded many.

Upon hearing this, I joined the small headquarters group and went to the scene. We had to wade through chest deep waters to get to the site. On the nearby shore I saw wounded being carried out. This is the only picture I have of the incident.

Seconds later, just after I climbed the embankment, a British soldier charged at me full force with his gun and bayonet pointed only inches from my chest. The British were angry with me because I was an American. The fighter planes were American. I was a symbol. I was a perfect target for their anger and retaliation. That was a scary moment.

Suddenly, from my left, a hand quickly moved in, grabbed the gun and bayonet, and saved my life. I'll never forget the anger, the expression, on the face of the man who wanted to, and tried to, kill me. Teeth clamped, face seemingly on fire, eyes pointed and glaring with deep intensity. And yet, I understood. A military battlefield is an emotional Petri dish, where things develop and change in seconds.

The man who saved my life and I returned to the little base-ops. Moments later the man who tried to kill me, came up with tears in his eyes, and apologized so sincerely. I, of course, accepted.

There were so many seriously wounded, and so few troops to help carry all of the medical stretchers, that I pressed myself into service. This seemed more prudent, at the moment, than taking pictures. However, I still have haunting thoughts as to whether I made the right decision. After all, I was a war correspondent and should have been dedicated to being a newsman.

Anyway, I carried one corner of the stretcher, and the wounded British soldier kept bleeding as we headed back across the Naktong River, the little metal floating bridge, and the long and weight-heavy stretcher. The four of us never communicated. We did try to console that severely wounded young lad on the stretcher. We were constantly under enemy fire with artillery shells exploding rapidly around us, throwing large amounts of water, or sand, on us. So far, we were still alive. Each time we heard the shells "Whistle," we would drop to the ground to try and make us less vulnerable.

Leaving the river behind, it was a long stretch to a wooded area and a road where they could get the soldier to a field hospital. I never learned of the wounded soldier's fate.

During the last big stretch across the sand, more shells came in. I looked over and saw the body of a British soldier lying there, all alone, with the top of his head blown off. Somehow, and only God could tell us, his face was still recognizable. I emotionally froze. The dead British soldier was the one who saved my life by interceding in that bayonet attack on me just a few minutes prior. My emotions ran wild. How could this be? Why did this happen - to either of us?

But, the wounded soldier on the stretcher couldn't pause, shouldn't pause. He needed immediate help.

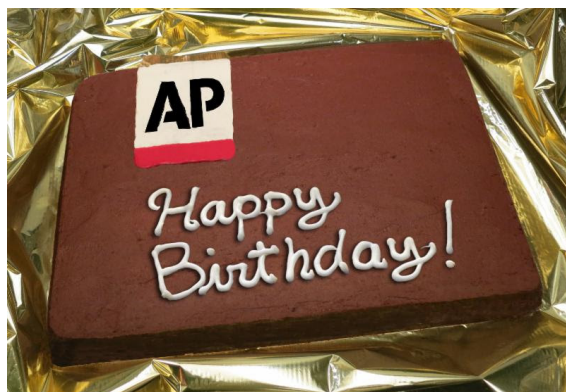
We arrived at the woods and were met by a British officer, and some soldiers. They took over. I never learned the outcome for that young man on the stretcher.

I didn't have time to cry or feel the full weight of the emotional battle I had just been through. However, those series of events are as alive today as they were those 69 years ago. It is still a living question as to the outcome in the lives of those British soldiers who were also involved.

As soon as I got to an American military outpost, I used their field telephone (a phone in an army canvas bag) to call Bem Price at the AP post in Teague. I gave him the facts about the battle mistake, and he wrote the story and phoned it to Tokyo, and then by radio to San Francisco for transmission on the old A-wire across the U.S.

I have again relived those events in this story for Connecting. The march of time continues, and so do memories, good ones and bad ones.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Donna Davidson - ddavidson@ap.org

Jim Robertson - jimrobertson203@gmail.com

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Albert Habhab
Gene Herrick
Elaine Light
Joe McKnight
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson
Paul Albright
Peter Arnett
Malcolm Barr
Lou Boccardi
Hal Bock
William Roy Bolch Jr.
Ben Brown
Charles Bruce
Hal Buell
Sibby Christensen
Mike Cochran
Eldon Cort
Don Dashiell
Otto Doelling
Phil Dopoulos
John Eagan

Claude Erbsen
Mike Feinsilber
George Hanna
Bob Haring
Chick Harrity
Jack Howey
Kathryn Johnson
Lee Jones
Doug Kienitz
Dean Lee
Warren Lerude
Carl Leubsdorf
Art Loomis
Dave Mazarella
Joe McGowan
Walter Mears
Yvette Mercourt
Reid Miller
Charlie Monzella
Greg Nokes
Joe Somma
Arlon Southall
Marty Thompson
Ron Thompson
Kernan Turner
Hank Waters
Paul Webster
Jeff Williams
Joe Yeninas
Arnold Zeitlin
George Zucker

Stories of interest

Stephanie Grisham, Trump's New Press Secretary, Literally Pushes for Press Access

(New York Times)

By Annie Karni

WASHINGTON - Stephanie Grisham, the new White House press secretary, returned from the Demilitarized Zone with a bruise on her arm after physically pushing North Korean officials to clear a way for American journalists to cover President Trump's meeting with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un.

In a video of the clash, Ms. Grisham can be seen - iPhone in one hand - wedging her body between a railing and a throng of men crowding a hallway. "Go," she commanded a group of journalists as she held back the North Koreans, opening a path for the journalists.

Making her first mark in the job by fighting, physically, for press access, Ms. Grisham offered a stark contrast to how Sean Spicer, Mr. Trump's first press secretary, introduced himself to the world when he assumed the same position. Dressed in an ill-fitting suit, Mr. Spicer had stood at the White House lectern and stated, falsely, that Mr. Trump's inauguration crowd drew the "largest audience to ever witness an inauguration, period, both in person and around the globe." He then stalked off without taking questions.

Read more [here](#).

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U.S. journalism job cuts haven't been this bad since the recession (Bloomberg)

By Gerry Smith, Bloomberg News

The news business is on pace for its worst job losses in a decade as about 3,000 people have been laid off or been offered buyouts in the first five months of this year.

The cuts have been widespread. Newspapers owned by Gannett and McClatchy, digital media companies like BuzzFeed and Vice Media, and the cable news channel CNN have all shed employees.

The level of attrition is the highest since 2009, when the industry saw 7,914 job cuts in the first five months of that year in the wake of the financial crisis, according to data compiled by Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., an outplacement and executive coaching firm.

The firm's tally is based on news reports of buyouts and layoffs, and includes downsizing at printing operations and advertising and tech executives at Verizon Media Group, home of HuffPost and Yahoo, which announced in January that it was laying off about 800 employees.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

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Hoax call about a murder sends cops to columnist Leonard Pitts Jr.'s door. Cops apologize (Miami Herald)

By Carli Teproff, Miami Herald

More than half a dozen police officers showed up at the home of Miami Herald columnist Leonard Pitts Jr. in Maryland early Sunday after a hoax call to 911 reporting that someone had been murdered inside the home.

Pitts, a Pulitzer Prize winning writer and award-winning author whose columns appear in about 250 newspapers nationwide, said he was cuffed, questioned and eventually released after officers realized it was a hoax.

"It was an interesting way to start the morning," Pitts said Sunday afternoon. "It felt surreal, like I was in a movie."

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

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Republicans far more likely than Democrats to say fact-checkers tend to favor one side (Pew Research Center)

BY MASON WALKER AND JEFFREY GOTTFRIED

As fact-checking organizations are increasingly being tapped to fight against misinformation, Republicans appear to have serious concerns about the fairness of these groups. Democrats, on the other hand, mostly think they are fair to all sides.

Americans split on whether fact-checkers favor one side; most Republicans say this is the case. Overall, Americans are split in their views of fact-checkers: Half say fact-checking efforts by news outlets and other organizations tend to deal fairly with all sides, while about the same portion (48%) say they tend to favor one side, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted Feb. 19 to March 4, 2019.

But members of the two parties do not see eye-to-eye on this question. Seven-in-ten Republicans say fact-checkers tend to favor one side, compared with roughly three-in-ten Democrats (29%) - a 41 percentage point difference. Conversely, most Democrats (69%) say fact-checkers deal fairly with all sides, a view shared by just 28% of Republicans. Independents are more split, with 47% saying fact-checkers tend to favor one side and 51% saying they deal fairly with all sides - though independents who lean toward the Democratic Party and those who lean toward the Republican Party diverge sharply (65% vs. 37% say fact-checkers deal fairly with all sides, respectively).

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Hartzell.

Today in History - July 2, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2019. There are 182 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 2, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

On this date:

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

In 1892, the Populist Party (also known as the People's Party) opened its first national convention in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked black residents; nearly 50 people, mostly blacks, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1977, Russian-American author Vladimir Nabokov, 78, died in Montreux, Switzerland.

In 1982, Larry Walters of San Pedro, California, used a lawn chair equipped with 45 helium-filled weather balloons to rise to an altitude of 16,000 feet; he landed eight miles away in Long Beach.

In 1987, 18 Mexican immigrants were found dead inside a locked boxcar near Sierra Blanca, Texas, in what authorities called a botched smuggling attempt; a 19th man survived.

In 1996, electricity and phone service was knocked out for millions of customers from Canada to the Southwest on a record-hot day. Seven years after they shotgunned their parents to death in the family's Beverly Hills mansion, Lyle and Erik Menendez were sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 1997, Academy Award-winning actor James Stewart died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 89.

Ten years ago: Thousands of U.S. Marines poured into Taliban-controlled villages in southern Afghanistan in the first major operation under President Barack Obama's strategy to stabilize the country. North Korea test-fired two short-range missiles. The 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency chose Yukiya Amano of Japan as its next head. Federal marshals took possession of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's \$7 million Manhattan penthouse, forcing Madoff's wife, Ruth, to move elsewhere.

Five years ago: Palestinians accused Israeli extremists of abducting and killing an Arab teenager and burning his body, sparking hours of clashes in east Jerusalem and drawing charges that the youth was murdered to avenge the killings of three kidnapped Israeli teens. Louis Zamperini, 97, an Olympic runner who survived a bomber crash in the Pacific Ocean, weeks adrift and then years as a Japanese prisoner of war and became the subject of a celebrated book and movie, died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: Rescue divers in Thailand found 12 boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding as they explored a cave more than a week earlier. President Donald Trump interviewed four prospective Supreme Court justices in his search for a replacement for retiring Justice Anthony Kennedy. Harvey Weinstein was charged with a sex crime against a third woman as New York prosecutors continued building cases against the former Hollywood studio boss. Jackson family patriarch Joseph Jackson was buried in the same Southern California cemetery as his late son Michael. Fresh off a landslide victory, Mexico's newly elected leftist president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador pledged to "reach an understanding" with Donald Trump.

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 90. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 89. Actor Robert Ito is 88. Actress Polly Holliday is 82. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 82. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 80. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 77. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 72. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 72. Actor Saul Rubinek is 71. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 70. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 67. Actress Wendy Schaal is 65. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 63. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 58. Country singer Guy Penrod is 56. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 54. Actress Yancy Butler is 49. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 43. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 41. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 40. NHL center Joe Thornton is 40. Singer Michelle Branch is 36. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 35. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 35. Actor Nelson Franklin is 34. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 34. Actress Lindsay Lohan is 33. Actress Margot Robbie is 29.

Thought for Today: "The best way to find out if you can trust somebody is to trust them." - Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961).

Connecting calendar



July 27 - Services for **Ed Shearer**, a longtime AP sportswriter, will be held Saturday, July 27, at 1 p.m. at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, [4795 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338](#). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to: **Lazarus Ministries**, [2270 Defoor Hills Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30318](#). The family said that so we can thank you, please have acknowledgments sent to: [130 Kimberly Rd, Canton, GA 30115](#). A family contact is Sheri Browne - sheribrowne@att.net

August 6 - A scattering of ashes for former AP Concord and Indianapolis bureau chief **Dave Swearingen**, who died in 2018, will be held Tuesday, August 6, at 10:30 a.m. at Reid State Park, [375 Seguinland Road, Georgetown ME 04548](#). Those attending should meet at the Todd's Point Parking lot and will head over to Half Mile Beach. While there is no formal service, brief remarks will be made. Dave's son Tim can be reached at timswearingen71@gmail.com

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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