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**Connecting - July 16, 2019**

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# Connecting

July 16, 2019

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## This letter made Amir Shah 'feel 10 feet tall'



Photo/Kathy Gannon

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019,

When our Connecting colleague **Kathy Gannon** calls **Amir Shah** "one of the greatest reporters I ever met," that's saying something!

Kathy, who is AP's senior correspondent for Pakistan/Afghanistan, based in Islamabad, Pakistan, is one of AP's very finest journalists and she shares in today's lead story why she considers him so highly.

Amir Shah retires from AP at the end of this month after more than 40 years of service in Afghanistan. AP President and CEO **Gary Pruitt** said in a letter to Shah that local journalists are the lifeblood of the AP. That letter, Shah said, made him feel 10 feet tall!

Amir Shah worked with Gannon as a driver off and on for many years before he started with the AP in 1996-97. "When he began he was our correspondent, photographer and videographer. He was AP's first multi-media journalist, pretty impressive for a man who began as a driver," she said. "I arranged to have colleagues from Islamabad teach him photography and using the video camera. He always said he began in the basement and that I brought him to the top floor but all I ever did was give him the opportunity. It was Amir Shah who took that opportunity and soared - and AP benefited."

Gannon assembled two books for his retirement party last week - one about 160 pages of notes and pictures she collected from his army of friends that includes many of journalism's greats like **Bob Reid** of the AP, **Lyse Ducet** of the BBC, **John Burns** of the New York Times and journalist and author **Ahmed Rashid**. The other book contained testimonials from his AP colleagues and dear friends in Kabul and Islamabad.

Today's issue brings you the first wave of memories of your Connecting colleagues from 50 years ago when the Apollo 11 mission landed the first men on the moon. As today's Today in History notes, Apollo 11 launched from Cape Kennedy 50 years ago today.

Join those colleagues who responded with your own memories. Fascinating stuff.



Finally, our colleague **Myron Belkind** ([Email](#)) was watching the news conference Monday on television from his home by the four congresswomen who were the subjects of attack by President Trump and snapped this picture, showing AP photographer AP's **Scotty Applewhite** in the split screen, doing what he always does, standing front and center to get the best photos.

Have a great day!

Paul

**Amir Shah - 'one of greatest reporters I ever met'**





**Amir Shah with colleagues at his retirement party.**

**Kathy Gannon (Email)** - Telling the story of Amir Shah, our AP colleague in Afghanistan who retires at the end of this month after more than 40 years telling the stories of his beloved homeland, is like a walk through the mind and heart of perhaps one of the greatest reporters I have ever met.

Amir Shah can get information on just about anything from any corner of the country. When he speaks of a particular commander his sentence most often begins "you remember him my good friend or your friend. . . "

Amir Shah has made everyone his friend. He sits in judgment of no one, wants to hear the stories of everyone. He has made friends with Taliban commanders, presidents, warlords, day workers, widows working behind veils in bakeries. Everyone is Amir Shah's friend and everyone is worthy of a story and rarely does he talk to anyone without getting their phone number. Everyone is important.

Even when he is on a picnic with his family in some remote area before he leaves to return home he stops at the local police station, introduces himself, speaks to the local police chief and gets his phone number.

Amir Shah says people need to see your face because then when they hear your voice on the phone they want to help you, they want to give you information. They know you.

Amir Shah lives and reports with a heart that is open and embracing and just so incredibly smart and kind.

Amir Shah has many truisms or codes by which he lives and from which I have learned so much.

One of Amir Shah's truism is that you never forget people when they are out of power. It is when they have no power that you make that special effort to meet them, to help them.

When the Taliban collapsed in 2001 with the U.S. led invasion there was a senior Taliban commander whom Amir Shah and I had befriended and who had spoken of many things quietly to us and who had helped Amir Shah when other Taliban harassed his family members.

The Taliban commander had been a deputy interior minister during the Taliban rule but had reached out to the opposition even as the Taliban ruled unquestionably and when the Taliban fled he stayed behind.

He risked much but cared only for his country. Amir Shah saw him as his friend and saw he was without anything after the collapse. He had made no money during the Taliban rule. Though powerful he had lived humbly.

The Taliban commander helped Amir Shah when he could and when we could we helped him. Amir Shah said it was much more important to reach out to him when his power was gone.

To say I admire Amir Shah is an understatement. He has been both friend and teacher. I have learned an extraordinary amount from him about so much.



**Another shot from the retirement party.**

He has been a gift to me and to AP and to the legions of freelance journalists who passed through Afghanistan during his 40 years.

He has been smart, quick witted, innovative and kind as he navigated his way through the relentless conflicts that have characterized his entire work career.

The stories of his quick wittedness are legendary: He identified a New York Times journalist as John Major's cousin to get him through a checkpoint. He quickly took his hand held TV recorder and slapped it against his ear pretending it was a radio when confronted by angry Taliban who forbade picture taking. "BBC brother," he said. So convincing was he that the Taliban wanted to know if there was any report about them.

For me he is a friend who has kept me safe and when Anja and I were shot in Khost in 2014, one of the first things he said when he came to my hospital bed in Kabul was: "I should have been there."

He was by my side. He walked my family through their fears and their anguish. He spoke gently and kindly and when AP said they would send him to Germany where I was he stepped aside to let our colleague Rahim Faiez go, not because he didn't want to go but because he had been to Europe once before. Rahim had never been.

Amir Shah's heart is boundless.

I will miss him at AP. AP will miss him terribly but thankfully as my friend I will still see him with each visit to Kabul.

Amir Shah's email is - [amirshahphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:amirshahphoto@yahoo.com)

## ***While not household name in wider AP, Amir Shah is legend among AP journalists in Afghanistan***



**Bob Reid** ([Email](#)) - Amir Shah may not be a household name in the wider AP but among AP people who have worked in Afghanistan, he's a legend. He's worked for AP since the rise of the Taliban, through Taliban and al-Qaida rule in the country, the U.S invasion, the long war and the efforts to rebuild Afghanistan. He's one of those guys who may not get the accolades in New York but without whom the bureau's reporting would never have been the same.



He's a Hazara which is the lowest ethnic group on the social totem pole. But this never stopped him. He's fearless and has an uncanny knack for making friends with anybody - from Hamid Karzai, to Taliban fighters, police, high-ranking bureaucrats, street beggars and ordinary people.

And he can get them to talk, sometimes about things they shouldn't!

He was there for AP when the Taliban ruled the country and when being a journalist for a Western agency could be a life-shortening experience.

He used his connections to help Kathy (Gannon) and Athens photographer Dmitri Messinis to get visas to Afghanistan soon after the 2001 war started. AP was the only Western news organization with foreign journalists in Kabul before the city fell.

On the night of the first airstrikes, he was on duty in Kabul, with no electricity but with a mobile phone and an open line to AP Islamabad. Kathy was on the phone with him when the first explosions rocked the city. He dictated a few words to her, and she repeated them to me. I punched out the information on instant messenger to an editor on the foreign desk (Chris Chester) who filed the initial alerts and bulletin. Afterward, he roamed the hospitals talking to injured civilians and others.

Stories of his resourcefulness are legendary.

My favorite: before he worked for AP exclusively he was working as a fixer for a visiting African-American reporter. They were stopped at a rural checkpoint by gunmen who said foreigners were not permitted to advance. Amir Shah managed to convince the guards that his passenger was Kofi Annan's nephew and he was allowed to proceed.

I recall that when I was there, a Taliban suicide squad attacked a small hotel filled with foreigners. He rushed to the scene but officials were saying nothing. Fighting was still underway, He then spotted a friend of his, a police general, whom he knew could speak no English. Most of the people fleeing the attack were foreigners who spoke English but no local languages.

Amir Shah volunteered to help the general question survivors. That meant AP had details and color almost simultaneously with the cops. At one point as he was interpreting, he received an incoming call. He checked to see the caller ID and excused himself from the general for a moment. It was the Taliban spokesman with a claim of responsibility. After a quick call to the bureau, he resumed helping the general.

During a similar attack, we shuttled videotape from the scene to the office for filing - again while fighting was underway. As I watched the tape there was Amir Shah, carrying a wounded man over his shoulder like a sack of flour to the ambulance. (He

knew that such gestures were welcomed by police and bystanders who would then be more willing to talk to him).

## Memories of Apollo 11 moon landing - 50 years ago

**Darrell Condon (Email)** - Where was I when they landed on the moon? In a bunker in Chu Lai, the power had been cut earlier and we took up defensive positions. Someone had a radio and we listened to the whole thing. During the landing some Marine said "they can put a man on the moon but they can't keep our \$#%ing power on"? We all laughed. We surely must have confused the VC because as soon as they landed the sky lit up with friendly-fire tracer rounds. The whole thing was kind of bizarre, they landed on the moon, we celebrated ...and we were back in the war.

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**Bill Hancock (Email)** - One morning in 1969, my wife Nicki and I propped our three-month-old son, Will, in front of the Daily Oklahoman and took this snapshot with our Kodak Instamatic. Will certainly seems to be sharing the world's fascination with the moon landing. The early exposure to newspapers apparently took hold, and Will studied journalism at the University of Kansas before becoming assistant

sports information director at Oklahoma State University. Our family grieved when Will died at age 31, in the crash of the OSU basketball team's airplane that claimed 10 lives. Ours is a family of writers: Nicki retired after teaching high school English for 30 years, I have written two books, and Will's daughter, Andrea, will be a freshman at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism this fall. If my name sounds familiar, it may be because I'm executive director of the College Football Playoff and longtime friend of the AP and a devotee of "Connecting."

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**Jim Hood (Email)** - As mankind prepared to walk on the moon, I was walking into a broadcast booth at KTKT, Tucson, Arizona. "Where the newswatch never stops" was our slogan, although the newscasts were only two and a half minutes long. We were watching the rest of the time, I guess.

I had previously worked at small-town radio stations where the news was a rather solemn, even boring, affair, complete with obits, farm prices and local high school sports coverage. But KTKT, like other "Top 40" stations, livened up the news with odd burps, echo effects, tweets and blats. Then there were the Teletypes -- both AP and UPI -- clattering away just inches from the mic.

For the moon landing, we scrapped the 2.5-minute format and concocted a "long-form" live special report that was sponsored by one of our leading clients, a fast-food chain known as Whataburger.

Thus, I had the honor of narrating one of the most significant achievements of the modern day by endlessly repeating "Man's landing on the moon is brought to you by Whataburger -- the big one -- and that's saying a mouthful."

Those with sharp memories will recall that in the midst of the live landing coverage, AP moved a bulletin about a car accident involving Sen. Edward Kennedy and Mary Jo Kopchne. I managed to work that in without the "saying a mouthful" line.

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**Lindel Hutson (Email)** - In the summer of 1969 I wore Army khaki and was permanently assigned to the public information office at Fort Dix, New Jersey where I wrote for the post newspaper, gave tours of the base to incoming officers and made sure the PIO, Col. A.J. ``Moose" Nealon - one of the finest Army officers I ever knew - had the carbon paper in his typewriter right side up. The Army moved in triplicate in those days; there was no Xerox.

As one of the low men in the pecking order, I had been sent to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, on temporary duty as part of the PIO team for an ROTC summer camp.

The colonel in charge was no Moose Nealon. A royal pain, some of us wished him a ride to the moon with no return ticket. And may his carbon paper always be wrong side up.

The morning Apollo 11 lifted off, he had turned the office into a make-shift conference center to entertain and impress other officers. There was a color TV to watch the show. And we grunts supplied the donuts and coffee, emptied the ash trays and made sure the TV's rabbit ears had been wrapped in enough aluminum foil to bring in a decent signal.

On the night of the actual landing, I had driven back to Indiantown Gap from New Jersey just in time for the festivities.

Someone had brought an aging black and white TV. We set it up on a wobbly footlocker, and in a creaking World War II barracks we watched the moon landing as best we could. The TV would fade in and out when someone walked across the floor or flushed a toilet.

I was always jealous that the rest of the world got to watch in color while all we had was b&w. Later I found out the walk was in b&w anyhow so I guess we really didn't miss that much.

We were watching CBS and Walter Cronkite who read on the air many of the leads from the New York newspapers and the news services. He quoted from AP's Harry Rosenthal in one of the classic AP leads of all time: ``They kept the whole world waiting while they dressed to go out."''

NASA liked it too - click [here](#).

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**Chuck McFadden (Email)** - It was either 1972 or '73, and the Apollo 11 moon capsule was on display at the East Entrance to the California Capitol. Neil Armstrong had come to Sacramento to take a look at it. The state police told me that Armstrong had issued strict orders: No interviews! Well, that wasn't going to stop a young punk reporter like me. So after Armstrong had completed his inspection of the capsule and was headed toward the steps into the Capitol building, I intercepted him and, walking backward in front of him as he strode toward the steps, I shook hands, introduced myself, and interviewed him. He told me the capsule looked great - better than he had expected. That was pretty much the gist of it. We're not talking in-depth here. I found Armstrong to be instantly likable and, well,

boyish. Since I was the only reporter to interview him on the occasion, the story, brief as it was, got terrific play. And sometimes when I look at the moon at night many years later, I think to myself "Gee, I got to meet the first man to step on the moon." One of the perks of being a reporter for The AP.

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Page 6	REGISTRATION - APOLLO II	July 1969
<u>Names</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Local Residence</u>
201. R. Oswald	CBS	Holiday Inn-Titusville
202. William Overhead	CBS	Hilton
203. Lola Polce	NBC	Holiday Office Center
204. William Paley	CBS	Royal Oak
205. Ike Pappas	CBS	Hilton
206. J. Paterson	CBS	Diplomat
207. Steven K. Paulson	Orlando Brevard Sentinel	632-4243

**Steve Paulson (Email)** - I was at Cape Kennedy on July 16 when Apollo 11 roared into the Florida sky on the way to the moon. I still have a list of 1,772 reporters and photographers who covered the launch. They include Associated Press staffers Howard Benedict (Number 976), Jim Kerlin, Ken O'Steen, Harry Rosenthal, W.A. Smith, Alton Blakeslee, Fred MacFeely, Saul Pett, Gene Blythe (who was with the Orlando Sentinel at the time and later became an AP photographer), Richard Horwitz and Bill Achatz.

It lists the UPI staffers as Arthur Bleksley and Lillian Bleksley, Andy Taylor, Charles Aldinger, Bill Ferguson, Steve Huntley, Lewis Lord, H.D. Quigg, Al Rossiter Jr., Jack Warner, Jack Belich, John Prine, Jay Levin, Barney Cook and David Haylock.

The list of television reporters and staffers is too long to list.

Some of the listings are especially interesting, including Playboy magazine, the Atomic Energy Commission, Reader's Digest, Sports Illustrated, the Religious News Service, Better Believe, Women's Wear Daily, and True, "The Man's Magazine."

Some people are listed as part of the photo pools, not by affiliation, and others include technicians. Some of the pages are fading. If you are a Connecting subscriber and think your name is on the list and want a copy, I'll scan it in and send it to you. The list is 46 pages long and I can't send them all. My email is [steven\\_paulson@hotmail.com](mailto:steven_paulson@hotmail.com) Here is my name on the list:



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**FILE - In this July 21, 1969 file photo, U.S. Air Force Sgt. Michael Chivaris, Clinton, Mass.; Army Spec. 4 Andrew Hutchins, Middlebury, Vt.; Air Force Sgt. John Whalin, Indianapolis, Ind.; and Army Spec. 4 Lloyd Newton, Roseburg, Ore., read a newspaper headlining the Apollo 11 moon landing, in downtown Saigon, Vietnam. (AP Photo/Hugh Van Es)**

**Carl Robinson (Email)** - I was a photo editor with AP in Saigon and Vietnam was constantly in the news. But no story had the power to blow the war off front pages than Apollo 11 and the first landing on the moon on 20 July 1969. All we could do was stage silly "reaction shots" of GIs reading the Pacific Stars & Stripes or listening to AFRTS on a transistor radio and looking up at the moon. God, how I hated those damned shots, on this and other occasions. "And don't forget to get their full names, ranks and hometowns too," Horst Faas yelled as we headed out. With no satellite links, the first grainy moving images of this momentous occasion didn't show up on local TV until the next day. We only had the AP wire.

When Apollo 11 landed off Hawaii and - glorying in the moment - an excited President Nixon was on-hand to wave them into their post-moon trip biological isolation capsule, just in case they brought back any germs.

The next day in Guam, the U.S. president announced the Nixon Doctrine, under which America's Asian allies were told to take care of their own defense from now on, and Nixon formally announced the Vietnamization of the war. ... Nixon then

embarked on a trip through Asia to sell his new policy, including a planned stop in India.

So we weren't surprised to hear, as LBJ once did, that Nixon was dropping into South Vietnam on an unannounced visit on his way there. The AP had its usual White House correspondent and photographer on board, and so, with our Saigon staff as well, the story was well covered. I helped edit film and send out radiophotos of Nixon's visit to a US base north-east of Saigon.

After a busy day, I was having a late dinner when Huan, our leading darkroom technician, showed up. The office had received a call that our secretary's husband, a young ARVN [South Vietnamese Army] officer, was killed down in the Mekong Delta earlier that day. I knew her address and as we approached her northern Catholic refugee neighborhood, I was filled with dread. I'd seen death before, but never broken the news to anybody.

Everyone at AP loved the charming and petite Miss Tu. As we pulled up outside her home, family members recognized me and quickly called her name. She came running down the narrow hallway in her silk pajamas, her face a mixture of pleasant surprise and apprehension. I stood by the front door as Huan approached Tu and gave her the tragic news in a low, calm and steady voice. She screamed out and then was quickly grabbed by her mother and sisters, before collapsing onto the tile floor. They hugged her tightly. More wails, sobs and screams.

I stared wordlessly. What more could we do or say? We nodded goodbye to the menfolk and quietly left. Neighbors were already rushing to the house.

The day Nixon visited Vietnam, one more soldier died.

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**Dennis Whitehead** ([Email](#)) - July 20, 1969, was, indeed, a night that is sealed into the world's collective memory of adventurous first steps. High above Earth, on the lunar surface, Apollo 11 landed and several hours into the landing, Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first human being to set foot on the moon.

Soon after Tranquility had touched down and Armstrong uttered his famous words, three other space travelers, teenage boys in Cincinnati, Ohio, set out for their first adventure into the unknown - a car trip, just the guys and no parents, to Virginia Beach, Virginia.

How we set out star charts for Virginia Beach, I have no recollection, and scenes of our time there have faded, but the memory of those moments, the hours, before we ran out the door to drive through the overnight darkness, are memories that have remained vividly alive inside me since that momentous night.

## Remembering your first bureau chief

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - During my 28 years with the AP, all states had "Bureau Chiefs." Some were Foreign Correspondents, who also acted as Bureau Chiefs for their area in foreign service.

I was hired by a "Traffic Bureau Chief," as an "Office Boy (or Printer Attendant) in Columbus, Ohio. One 'Chief' was for news and membership, the other to handle the technical side.

My first bureau chief was John Jamison, in Indianapolis. He was quiet, efficient, teaching, and patient leader. I learned a lot from him, as I bumbled through my beginnings as an AP staff photographer.

Through my career I also was supervised by bureau chiefs Ed Ball, Nashville; Russ Brines, Tokyo; Murlin Spencer, Seattle; Bill Weekes, Milwaukee; George Moses, Minneapolis; Al Orton, Chicago, and Al Dopking, Columbus. I also worked with many Chief of Bureau across the country during my career in Kentucky, Iowa, Nebraska, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Oklahoma, and other spots I've forgotten.

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**Mark Thayer** ([Email](#)) - My first Bureau Chief was Bill Waugh. But I interviewed with and was hired by Paul Kern Lee, the great San Francisco Assistant Chief of Bureau. It was October and I had graduated in June with a Journalism degree, emphasis in radio and television, from San Jose State College (later University) and still didn't have a job. SJS required journalism graduates to spend a semester or a summer as an intern. I wound up spending a summer at the BBC in London. That was a great experience, but off track for your question.

On graduation I went around to local radio stations from San Francisco to Gilroy and beyond seeking a start. The major market stations said "get some experience," kid. The small stations said my BBC time meant I probably wouldn't stay very long. I then turned to the program director at a mostly Spanish language station where I had done a high school sports program while in high school.

She said, "Go up to San Francisco and talk to the wires." The man at UPI said they were having a hold down and no chance of my catching on there. Down the street in the Chronicle Building Paul Kern Lee had just received a letter from Assistant General Manager Bob Eunson saying, "Go out and find some young college graduates who know how to write radio copy." Paul had six weeks of vacation relief money and told me that if I did a good job, they would find some place for me. A few weeks later Salt Lake City Bureau Chief Bob Myers was in town, we talked and he asked me to go to Salt Lake as Broadcast Editor for Utah and Idaho. I was saddened to learn in Monday's Connecting of Bob's passing.

Salt Lake led to the Broadcast Desk in NYC under John Aspinwall and then Chicago under Al Orton and Joe Dill before moving into sales working for Bob Eunson and Roy Steinfort.

## Stories of interest

### ***Tiptoeing around Trump's racism is a betrayal of journalistic truth-telling*** (Washington Post)

**By Margaret Sullivan**

**Media columnist**

Long before Donald Trump ran for president, an inside-journalism battle was raging over the ideas of objectivity and balance.

It went like this: Should reporters and editors strive for a kind of neutral evenhandedness, long considered the hallmark of responsible journalism?

Or should they declare their biases up front and let news consumers know where they are coming from, an approach seen by some as more useful and honest?

With Trump dominating politics and media, a third - more important - question arises.

Are journalists going to embrace or abandon their primary job, which is truth-telling?

If they are going to do that job, they must embrace direct language and clear framing of important issues.

Early in Trump's presidency, the question of whether to use the word "lie" arose.

Most mainstream news organizations were wary about it. Some 10,000 false or misleading presidential statements later, many now use it when appropriate - that is, when there is a clear intention to mislead. Which is quite often.

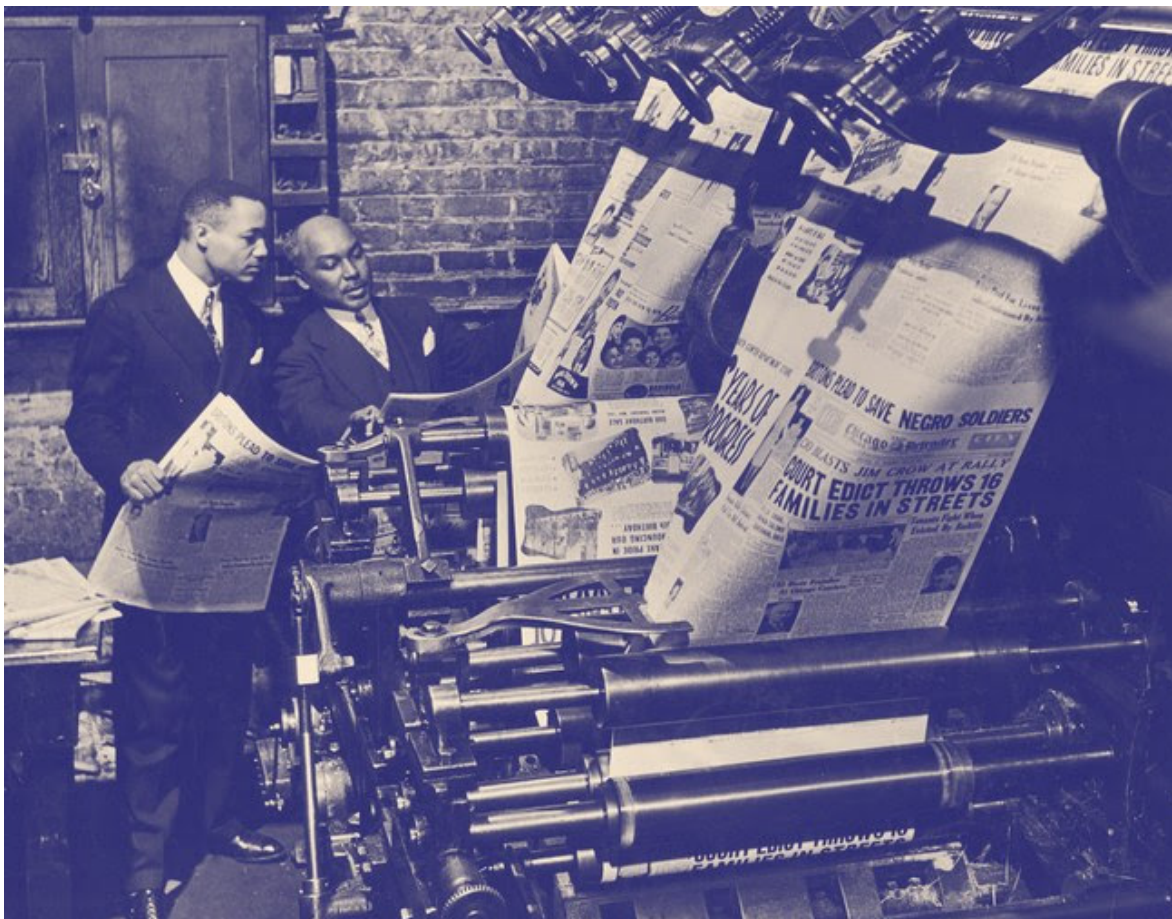
Now the question is the word "racist."

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

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***The Exemplary Legacy of the Chicago Defender*** (New Yorker)





**The Chicago Defender, the iconic black newspaper founded a hundred and fourteen years ago, by Robert S. Abbott (right), will now be published online only. Source Photograph by Gordon Coster / The LIFE Images Collection / Getty**

### **By Isaac Chotiner**

This week, the Chicago Defender, one of the most renowned black newspapers in America, will cease to produce a print edition. Though it will continue to publish online, the demise of the Defender as a physical object, a hundred and fourteen years after its founding, marks another sad milestone in the decline of print newspapers. The Defender's reputation arose not only through the quality of its writing—Langston Hughes and Ida B. Wells were contributors—but also thanks to the political stances it took. The paper didn't merely editorialize against segregation and for equal rights for black Americans; it also offered a vision of black life in Chicago that was said to have encouraged the Great Migration northward of many Southern blacks. (The paper's founder, Robert S. Abbott, had himself relocated from Georgia.) It also campaigned for desegregation of the military and covered business and community relations in the city's numerous black neighborhoods.

To talk about the paper's history, I recently spoke by phone with Glenn Reedus, a former executive editor and managing editor at the Defender who has worked in local journalism for many years. (He told me that he was "an itinerant newspaper

guy loving the journey from typewriters to terabytes.") During our conversation, which has been edited for length and clarity, we discussed the paper's iconic status in Chicago, its crucial role in the Great Migration, and the future of the black press.

Read more [here](#).

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***Nearly 7,000 people threatened to cancel their newspaper subscriptions. Here's what got them to stay.*** (Nieman)

By LAURA HAZARD OWEN

You're a print newspaper subscriber, and one morning your paper doesn't show up. You call customer service (how brave of you!) and threaten to cancel. The apologetic customer service rep offers you a discount for the remainder of your subscription, which you accept. But what will you do when that subscription comes up for renewal?

According to a new study from Notre Dame and Emory, newspaper subscribers who receive a short-term price adjustment to quell the disappointment of a delivery failure are actually less likely to renew their subscription when the time comes - suggesting that newspapers might want to adjust their tactics for addressing customer complaints. Among the things they can try instead: Renewal discounts, extending or upgrading the subscriber's existing subscription, and regularly taking the opportunity to remind customers of what the "full" subscription price is.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - July 16, 2019



## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 16, the 197th day of 2019. There are 168 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

### On this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1911, actress-dancer Ginger Rogers was born Virginia Katherine McMath in Independence, Mo.

In 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo (ahl-ah-moh-GOHR'-doh), New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare (mar-AY') Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq.

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1981, singer Harry Chapin was killed when his car was struck by a tractor-trailer on New York's Long Island Expressway.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette (bi-SEHT'), died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 2002, the Irish Republican Army issued an unprecedented apology for the deaths of "noncombatants" over 30 years of violence in Northern Ireland.

In 2004, Martha Stewart was sentenced to five months in prison and five months of home confinement by a federal judge in New York for lying about a stock sale.

In 2008, Florida resident Casey Anthony, whose 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, had been missing a month, was arrested on charges of child neglect, making false official statements and obstructing a criminal investigation. (Casey Anthony was later acquitted at trial of murdering Caylee, whose skeletal remains were found in December 2008; she was convicted of lying to police.)

Ten years ago: Saying that civil rights leaders from decades past had paved the way for his election as the nation's first black commander in chief, President Barack Obama paid homage to the NAACP during a convention in New York, and advised members that their work remained unfinished. In an embarrassing acknowledgement, NASA admitted that in all likelihood, it had recorded over the original videotapes of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

Five years ago: The U.S. and the European Union imposed new economic sanctions on Russia; in his announcement, President Barack Obama said, "What we are expecting is that the Russian leadership will see once again that its actions in Ukraine have consequences." Texas blues legend Johnny Winter, 70, died in Zurich.

One year ago: After meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, President Donald Trump openly questioned the finding of his own intelligence agencies that Russia had meddled in the 2016 U.S. election to his benefit. (Trump said a day later that he misspoke.) Federal prosecutors said a 29-year-old gun rights activist, Maria Butina, had been arrested on charges that she served as a covert Russian agent while living in Washington, gathering intelligence on American officials and political organizations. (Butina was sentenced to 18 months in prison after admitting gathering intelligence on the NRA and other groups at the direction of a former Russian lawmaker.) Bryce Harper of the Washington Nationals won the All-Star Home Run Derby in his home ballpark, beating Kyle Schwarber of the Chicago Cubs 19-18.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh is 87. Soul singer William Bell is 80. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 77. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 76. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 71. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 71. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 67. Playwright Tony Kushner is 63. Actress Faye Grant is 62. Dancer Michael Flatley is 61. Actress Phoebe Cates is 56. Actor Paul Hipp is 56. Actor Daryl "Chill" Mitchell is 54. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 52. Actor Jonathan Adams is 52. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 51. Actress Rain Pryor is 50. Actor Corey Feldman is 48. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (koh-WAHL'-chek) (Live) is 48. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 45. Actress Jayma Mays is 40. Actress AnnaLynne McCord is 32. Actor-singer James Maslow is 29. Actor Mark Indelicato is 25. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds to Summer) is 23.

**Thought for Today: "Any life, however long and complicated it may be, actually consists of a single moment: the moment when a man knows forever more who he is." - Jorge Luis Borges, Argentine author (1899-1986).**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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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