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Connecting - September 24, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

September 24, 2019



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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 24th day of September 2019,

With sadness we bring you news that **Bobby Baker**, former Virginia AP chief of communications who worked for The Associated Press for more than 43 years, died Monday at his home in Powhatan, Virginia. He was 79.

We lead today's Connecting with a story on his death and would welcome any thoughts or favorite memories you have of working with Bobby. Over the past few weeks as Bobby was in home hospice fighting cancer, many of you dropped him a note of encouragement.

If you would like to send a note to his wife, **Marilyn Baker**, her address is: [1618 Olde Links Drive, Powhatan, VA 23139](#).

Today's issue also brings you the story on an AP photographer who was wounded in a shooting outside Haiti's Senate when a senator from the governing party fired a pistol during a confrontation with opposition protesters. **Dieu-Nalio Chery**, struck in the jaw by what appeared to be a fragment of one of the bullets fired by Sen. Ralph Fethiere, was treated and released from a Port-au-Prince hospital. He was expected to undergo further treatment this week to remove the object from his jaw.

Have a good day!

Paul

Bobby Baker, former Richmond communications chief and 43-year AP veteran, dies at 79



Bobby and Marilyn Baker in 2016.

By HANK KURZ Jr.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Bobby E. Baker, who worked for more than 43 years in technology and communications for The Associated Press, has died.

Baker, who had been battling lung cancer, died Monday surrounded by family, his wife, Marilyn Baker, said. He was 79.

Baker joined the AP as a temporary operator in Philadelphia and quickly moved to a full-time position with the company in Des Moines, Iowa, in February 1963. He later worked as a technician in New York and Omaha, Nebraska, before being named assistant chief of communications in Philadelphia. He spent 15 months in that spot until being named chief of communications in Richmond in May 1973, where he remained until his retirement in September 2006.



2005 AP photo by Steve Helber

On the job, he was known for quickly solving problems and doing it with unflappable grace.

"When a communications issue came across my desk ... along with word that Bobby Baker was on the case, I knew that I'd soon be putting the problem in the "Solved" box," former AP president and chief executive officer Louis D. Boccardi wrote in a recent email to Baker. "Thank you for all those great years of service to AP."

Former Richmond bureau chief Dorothy Abernathy lauded Baker for his composure and recalled how he quickly set up an alternate work space for staffers when the building that housed the bureau caught fire. He also set up a more permanent space at the Richmond Times-

Dispatch, all while trying to get the bureau running again.

"Bobby seemed to be working round the clock in those early days after the fire. He knew how important it was to get the newsroom up and running immediately," Abernathy said. "But then, he always took his work that seriously. He wouldn't rest until a problem was resolved." Abernathy also noted his easy manner when dealing with members on visits, and his invaluable guidance.



"Bobby and I worked together for nearly two decades. He helped me a lot over the years when I needed advice or just needed someone to listen," she said. "AP was important to him, but so were all the individuals he worked with. He was a friendly, reliable and trustworthy colleague, but also a good friend."

Baker spent four years in the Air Force, where he learned the communications trade as a teletype operator.

It was during his time in Des Moines that Baker met his wife of 53 years, Marilyn Hinnners. They have two children, Robyn (James) Hodges of Powhatan and Christy (Chris) Davoud of Midlothian, and seven grandchildren. Baker also is survived by his sister, Faye Johnson of Raleigh, North Carolina.

Funeral arrangements were pending.

Click [here](#) for a link to this story.

Remembering Bobby Baker...

Hank Kurz (Email) - Bobby was a kind man who was all about family and the people he loved, including co-workers. He was a happy man who always asked about family and shared about his. I think it speaks volumes that one of the first people to write to him after his email address was posted here in Connecting was Lou Boccardi. Bobby attracted many visitors from many aspects of his life in his final weeks, but in the end, his family mattered most. His wife Marilyn of 53 years. Two daughters, two sons-in-law, seven grandchildren. He doted on them all in retirement, but cherished the breakfasts with former colleagues too. He was the kind of man who required no thought when asked what he was like, and no fudging: Bobby was unafraid of what would come next, but cherished every moment with the life and family he and Marilyn built. He was a gem of a man and will be missed, but who left cherished memories for all who knew him.

AP photographer wounded as senator fires gun during protest



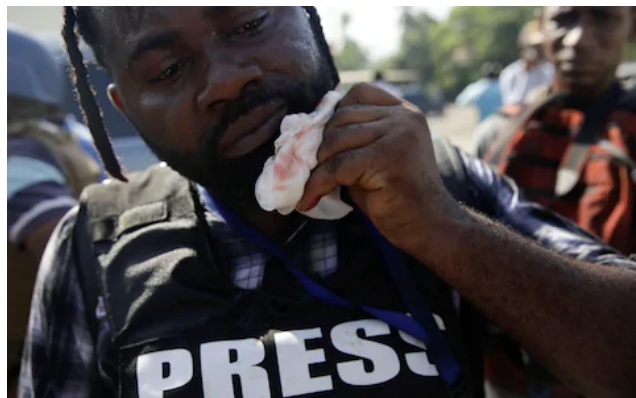
Ruling party Senator Ralph Fethiere fires his gun outside Parliament as he arrives for a vote on the ratification of Fritz William Michel's nomination as prime minister in Port-

au-Prince, Haiti, Monday, Sept. 23, 2019. Opposition members confronted ruling-party senators, and Fethiere pulled a pistol when protesters rushed at him and members of his entourage. The vote was cancelled. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

By EVENS SANON

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - An Associated Press photographer was wounded Monday in a shooting that erupted outside Haiti's Senate when a senator from the governing party fired a pistol during a confrontation with opposition protesters.

Dieu-Nalio Chery was hit in the jaw by what appeared to be a fragment of one of the bullets fired by Sen. Ralph Fethiere. Chery was treated and released from a Port-au-Prince hospital and was expected to undergo further treatment this week to remove the object from his jaw.



Photojournalist Dieu Nalio Chery was hit in the jaw CREDIT: ANDRES MARTINEZ CASARES/REUTERS

"Thankfully, he is expected to be OK. While it does not appear he was targeted, this is a reminder of the danger journalists around the world face every day while doing their jobs, even on a routine assignment," said Lauren Easton, AP's global director of media relations and corporate communications.

A Senate security guard also suffered what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the stomach.

Senators were convening Monday to approve Fritz William Michel's nomination as prime minister. Several hundred opposition supporters confronted Fethiere and other senators from the governing party. Fethiere pulled a pistol when protesters rushed at him and members of his entourage.

Moments before the shooting, AP journalists saw supporters of about a half-dozen opposition senators approaching Fethiere, hurling dirt at him and accusing him of selling his vote in favor of Michel.

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

Connecting mailbox

Our responsibility to teach students how journalism actually works

Terry Anderson ([Email](#)) - Re Margaret Sullivan's article on Wyoming's mistrust of news media (in Monday's Connecting): I found in a dozen years of teaching journalism at major universities that even entering journalism students don't know how journalism actually works. And that's our failure. If there is any useful result out of the objectivity/transparency (endless) argument, it's the idea that telling our readers what we're doing is a good thing. Yes, it puts an additional burden on reporters and editors, but it's an important way of educating them. As far as many people know, we just make this stuff up. And unfortunately, that's true for some "news" organizations. It remains for reputable, professional journalists, especially these days, to go the extra mile and show how they made the decisions that go into a major story, and why.

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AP's Tom Beaumont on the Iowa campaign trail



Randy Evans (Email) - Life in Iowa these days in the midst of the presidential campaign is pretty tough for the Associated Press' reporters: State Fair junk food; steak fries; rain storms; long days; lots of miles; gas station sandwiches.

Consider this photo Monday from Pete Buttigieg's campaign bus tour through Iowa.

There, slouched in one of the bus seats during a briefing by Mayor Pete's communications person, is the AP's Des Moines-based national political reporter Thomas Beaumont (second from right).

I worked with Tom when we both toiled for The Des Moines Register, me as assistant managing editor and Tom as the chief political reporter. The Register's loss when Tom left for the AP certainly was the AP's gain.

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AP's Darlene Superville on the Trump beat



AP White House reporter Darlene Superville (center of photo) with journalist colleagues on the White House South Lawn on Sunday, awaiting President Donald Trump. In the right foreground is Kelly O'Donnell, NBC News; behind her is Kate Nocera, BuzzFeed, and behind her (and next to Darlene) is David Martosko, [dailymail.com](https://www.dailymail.com). Photo by Jennifer Jacobs, Bloomberg.

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More on covering the news via motor bike

Glenn Adams ([Email](#)) - A Honda Trail 90 was also my first bike, but I gradually moved up the ladder to a Honda 175cc, a rugged 350, then my beloved 1973 BMW R75/5 (748cc) boxer.

My wife and I circled the United States on it in 1978, three years before I worked for A.P., logging nearly 12,000 miles in the process. (I transformed our trip journal into a book, "The Big Loop," now on Amazon Kindle Press.)

While at A.P. in Maine, I used my 1973 Beemer for a variety of assignments,

from a feature on fire towers in the state's southernmost county (York), to way up north in Aroostook for a piece on the state's first wind farm, in Mars Hill. There were rides to the western mountains for a retrospective on the 40th anniversary of the first live transatlantic TV signal via Telstar (Maine was chosen for the receiving site because the bowl-like shape of the mountains enhanced reception by the satellite dishes there). I saw moose grazing in the hills during that ride. There was a ride 'way Downeast to get a story on the lives of Hispanic and Native Americans who migrate there to harvest blueberries. I hopped on the so-called "toaster tank" BMW (so named for its distinctive chrome tank trim) for dozens of other assignments: fires, interviews, crimes, the whole gamut. Once I rode it to Portland to interview a candidate for governor (he had a full human skeleton hanging in his office. This is Maine.) It was spring and I didn't anticipate snow, and luckily the flurry on my ride home was brief).



My BMW R1100/RT

I retired my BMW, which I rode for 35 years, and replaced it in 2010 with a "new" 1999 BMW R1100/RT, which I also put to work from time to time. One memorable day was the assignment to the University of Maine to cover a federal grant for wind power research, then farther north on I-95 to Millinocket for a meeting on establishing a new national wilderness preserve near there. Memorable because I logged 360 miles that day.

I've also rented bikes I used for A.P. travel stories, including a BMW for a ride across the Florida Keys and Tamiami Trail, and a Harley-Davidson for a trip into the desert and Nevada's Valley of Fire.

I'm still enjoying my R1100 in retirement, with trips all over New England and the Maritimes. We even had it out today to christen a new brew pub a few miles away.

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A gathering of AP Broadcast alums



From left, Andrew Katell, Cammy Bourcier, Jack Stokes, Solange De Santis, Gerard Bourcier (spouse), John Davidson, Fred Yager, Jan Yager (spouse).

Solange DeSantis (Email) - Several AP Broadcast alumni gathered on Sept. 21 at the home of former Broadcast writer John Davidson in Washington, Conn. Davidson has hosted over the years several gatherings of New York-area Broadcast alumni. Great food and good fellowship prevails, most of the world's problems are solved and there is a minor amount of reminiscing. Dogs are welcome. John's Lulu hosted and Solange's Bentley joyfully ran around the woods.

Connecting sky shots - coast to coast

From Santa Monica...



Steve Loeper ([Email](#)) - The sun sets on the last weekend of summer at South Beach in Santa Monica, CA. Of course, it's always summer here, so not a huge moment. But still trying to figure out why I nearly let that sailboat glide out of my frame. It's just another Southern California beach -- no distractions there.

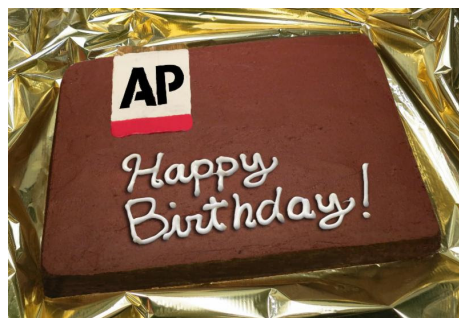
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To New Brunswick...



Mark Duncan ([Email](#)) - Nice sunset Sunday night from where we are staying on Campobello Island in New Brunswick during our vacation in the northeast.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Linda Deutsch - lcdeutsch@yahoo.com

Robert Shaw - rlshaw06@comcast.net

Welcome to Connecting



Cammy Bourcier - cammcommnj@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Opinion: The Growing Threat to Journalism Around the World (New York Times)



FILE PHOTO - New York Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger, left, and Nancy Ancrum, editorial page editor of the Miami Herald, at an Associated Press Managing Editors

conference in Texas last year. (AP Photo/Paul Weber)

By A. G. Sulzberger

Mr. Sulzberger is the publisher of The New York Times.

[This Op-Ed was originally delivered as a talk at Brown University on Monday.]

Our mission at The New York Times is to seek the truth and help people understand the world. That takes many forms, from investigations on sexual abuse that helped spark the global #MeToo movement; to expert reporting that reveals how technology is reshaping every facet of modern life; to important and hard-hitting cultural commentary, like when we proclaimed "the Aperol spritz is not a good drink."

But at a moment when surging nationalism is leading people to retreat inward, one of the most important jobs of The Times is to shine a light outward.

The Times is privileged to be one of the few news organizations with the resources to cover the world in all its complexity. And with that comes a responsibility to go where the story is, no matter the danger or hardship.

Every year, we put reporters on the ground in more than 160 countries. We're in Iraq and Afghanistan, covering the violence and instability wrought by decades of war. We're in Venezuela and Yemen, reporting on how corruption and conflict have led to mass starvation. We're in Myanmar and China, eluding government monitors to investigate the systematic persecution of the Rohingya and Uighurs.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa, Sibby Christensen, Paul Albright.

Click [here](#) for Huffington Post story (shared by Richard Chady) on his speech that leads:

The publisher of The New York Times said Monday that the Trump administration would not help one of its reporters who was about to be arrested in Egypt two years ago, saying the episode was just one of many instances of the U.S. retreating from its "historical role as a defender of the free press."

In a scathing op-ed about the growing threat to journalism around the globe, Times Publisher A.G. Sulzberger wrote that in 2017 one of the paper's reporters, Declan Walsh, was facing "imminent arrest" by government officials in Egypt. While such

calls are alarming, Sulzberger said they're standard for the paper, which has hundreds of reporters working in more than 160 countries. Under President Donald Trump, however, things took a shocking turn when an unnamed diplomat called Times leadership.

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What Happens When Weekly Newspapers Disappear? (Nieman)

By RYAN CRAIG

As editor and publisher of the Todd County Standard, a weekly in Elkton, Kentucky, I once ran a story that asked farmers to attend a very important meeting on agricultural zoning. The future of farming in the small county in Kentucky where I own and edit the newspaper could be changed at this meeting.

The crowd at the event was sparse, so the next morning at the local greasy spoon, I rage-walked to the liars' table, full of farmers, and asked why in the hell they didn't come to the meeting? Didn't they know how important it was?

One of the farmers stopped eating his eggs, looked up and said, "We didn't go because you said in your story that you'd be there. I had things to do, and I'll read what you'll write in the paper and decide if I need to be mad or not."

Years later at a journalist panel on the rise of fake news, I pointed out that for all the public distrust of the media-mainstream, liberal, conservative, etc.-local media seemed thus far spared, especially the weekly newspaper.

Read more [here](#).

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FBI charges soldier with sharing bombmaking tips, says he spoke of targeting liberals, journalists (Washington Post)

By Devlin Barrett

An Army private at Fort Riley, Kan., has been arrested on charges of providing instructions on how to make bombs to people he met online, including an undercover FBI agent.

Pfc. Jarrett William Smith, 24, was charged with distributing information related to explosives and weapons of mass destruction. In a criminal complaint, FBI officials said Smith provided bombmaking recipes in Facebook conversations.

Using the acronym for improvised explosive devices, authorities said, Smith wrote in a Facebook chat in December: "Oh yeah, I got knowledge of IEDs for days. We can make cellphone IEDs in the style of the Afghans. I can teach you that."

An attorney for Smith did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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Pope to TV journalists: Local news no less important than national news (Vatican News)

By Vatican News

Pope Francis overturned a frequent cliché in the world of journalism when he told local Italian television journalists, producers and technical staff, during an audience in the Vatican, that "local news is no less important than national news".

The importance of local news

Local news and information, said the Pope, is actually more genuine and authentic because it communicates "the voice of the people", in all aspects of peoples' social, cultural and spiritual life.

Local information gives space to local realities and cultures, he said, to news that would not be broadcast otherwise. More than ever, said the Pope, we need news to be communicated completely and thoughtfully, "so as to encourage reflection".

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bob Daugherty.

Today in History - September 24, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2019. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

On this date:

In 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1896, author F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1968, the TV news magazine "60 Minutes" premiered on CBS; the undercover police drama "The Mod Squad" premiered on ABC.

In 1969, the trial of the Chicago Eight (later seven) began. (Five were later convicted of crossing state lines to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic convention, but the convictions were ultimately overturned.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics - but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations - including the United States - to ratify it.)

In 2001, President George W. Bush ordered a freeze on the assets of 27 people and organizations with suspected links to terrorism, including Islamic militant Osama bin Laden, and urged other nations to do likewise.

In 2002, British Prime Minister Tony Blair asserted that Iraq had a growing arsenal of chemical and biological weapons and planned to use them, as he unveiled an intelligence dossier to a special session of Parliament.

In 2007, United Auto Workers walked off the job at General Motors plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later.

Ten years ago: With President Barack Obama presiding, the U.N. Security Council unanimously endorsed a sweeping strategy aimed at halting the spread of nuclear weapons and ultimately eliminating them. The heads of the Group of 20 nations began a two-day meeting in Pittsburgh aimed at making sure a fledgling global recovery remained on track. Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick tapped former Democratic National Chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. to temporarily fill the Senate seat held by the late Edward M. Kennedy. Susan Atkins, 61, a member of the Charles Manson "family" who admitted stabbing actress Sharon Tate to death in the cult's 1969 murder rampage, died in prison at Chowchilla, California.

Five years ago: At the opening of the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for world leaders to join an international campaign to ease the plight of nearly unprecedented numbers of refugees, the displaced and victims of violence in a world wracked by wars and the swift-spreading and deadly Ebola epidemic. President Barack Obama implored the leaders to rally behind his expanded military campaign to stamp out the violent Islamic State group and its "network of death."

One year ago: China and the United States imposed new tariff hikes on each other's goods; U.S. regulators went ahead with a planned 10 percent tax on \$200 billion worth of Chinese imports, and China said it responded with taxes on \$60 billion in American goods. As the president and top GOP lawmakers continued an aggressive drive to rally the public behind his Supreme Court nomination, Brett Kavanaugh reiterated to Fox News that he had never sexually assaulted anyone.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 80. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 79. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 77. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 77. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 74. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 73. Actor Gordon Clapp is 71. Actress Harriet Walter is 69. Songwriter Holly Knight is 63. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 67. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 61. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent is 57. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 57. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 50. Country musician Marty Mitchell is 50. Actress Megan Ward is 50. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 48. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 44. Actor Ian Bohen is 43. Actor Justin Bruening is 40. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 37. Actor Erik Stocklin is 37. Actor Spencer Treat Clark is 32. Actor Grey Damon is 32. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 31. Actor Ben Platt is 26.

Thought for Today: "Do not weep; do not wax indignant. Understand." - Baruch Spinoza, Dutch philosopher (1632-1677).

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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