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Connecting - October 31, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

October 31, 2019

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The Washington Nationals celebrate after Game 7 of the baseball World Series against the Houston Astros Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019, in Houston. The Nationals won 6-2 to win the series. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 31st day of October 2019,

Congratulations to all fans of the Washington Nationals, who last night became the 2019 World Series champions in a seven-game series in which neither the Nats nor the Astros won a game at home. Click [here](#) for a story from The Washington Post by its columnist Thomas Boswell.

I was saddened to learn upon return from my Holy Land trip of the Oct. 20 death of **Mal Applegate**, longtime Indiana newspaperman and educator. Mal was part of my journalism past both at the University of Kansas and with the AP. (Click [here](#) for a story.) He was 83.

We first met in a job interview when he came to KU as a Gannett recruiter. He recommended me for a tryout conducted at Gannett's Rochester, N.Y., newspapers and while I later received an offer as a reporter at the Ithaca Journal, I had already accepted an offer to join AP's Albany bureau in 1973. Nine years later, we renewed acquaintanceship when he



Mal Applegate, 2008

was publisher at the Lafayette Journal & Courier and I was Indianapolis chief of bureau.

He committed his newspaper to being a strong AP member - put to the test when I moved to Kansas City as bureau chief and in my first hire there, took one of his best young reporters, **Deb Riechmann**, a KU j-grad. It was one of my best hires: Deb is in her 36th year with AP, currently national security reporter in Washington after earlier assignments covering the White House and reporting from Afghanistan.

My longtime friend and colleague **Ann Brill**, dean of the Kansas journalism school, shares my loss on this man devoted to the craft of journalism. She wrote, "Mal was one of the first friends I met after becoming dean. He chaired the capital campaign and was so gracious and willing to teach me how to connect with donors and alumni. He was a lot of fun to work with and he had such an amazing collection of Jayhawk memorabilia. His gift of a professorship to the school will ensure his memory endures at the school."

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CORRECTION on the spelling of Fran Lewine's name in Wednesday's Connecting in the story on a gathering of women who sued AP. It is Lewine, not Lewin.

Hope you have a great day! And Happy Halloween! If you are out in costume trick or treating tonight, elbowing the kids out of the way, send along a picture of you in costume.

Paul

New member profile: Harry Moskos



Harry and Vicki Moskos with their dog Daisy in this 2017 photo by Michael Patrick,

Knoxville News Sentinel.

Harry Moskos (Email) - I was always interested in journalism - going back to at least the sixth grade in school when I was using a typewriter to put out my own school paper. A teacher showed me how to use a gelatin mold instead of using carbon paper - an immediate increase in circulation from 5 copies to 50.

After my junior year in high school, in June of 1953 at age 16, I walked into the building housing the Albuquerque Tribune and Albuquerque Journal - the first JOA city in American Journalism history. As I walked into the building the receptionist asked how she could help me. I said I was interested in a job in the Tribune as a copy boy or anything else. (I think I picked the Tribune because I liked their comics better). She replied, "I'll be back in a minute." When she came back, she told me to come with her to meet the editor. Yes, the editor, Dan Burrows, had me come to his office. My timing was perfect. They were signing a contract with United Press telephoto service and needed someone to operate the machine. When school resumed in the fall, I was told they needed me on Saturdays and on Sundays during football season. But I was told I could work any additional hours I wanted as long as I did not go over 40 hours a week. I had started doing other things such as writing stories, answering the telephone, opening and distributing the mail, etc.

In the meantime I had built relationships with others, including the Associated Press and UP. After graduation from the University of New Mexico I went fulltime at the Tribune. (I did get in some trouble at UNM for reporting such news as their fire extinguishers had not been inspected for years or the cafeteria was violating health department regulations.)

In 1959, I was approached by Jim Barber who asked me to become the editor of the Grants Daily Beacon. (Two weekly papers were merged into the one five-day-a-week publication.)

Then I was approached by the AP in 1960 to become a staffer in Albuquerque. It was then I found out that the AP had sought permission from Mr. Burrows to offer me a job but he would not give them permission to ask me and that the AP gave my name to Mr. Barber but told them they would offer me a position in about a year.

Bureau Chief Bill Richardson named me state editor in 1961 when Bill Feather was promoted to the chief Santa Fe correspondent. While Howard Graves was bureau chief after Mr. Richardson's promotion to a larger bureau, I was informed I was being transferred to Honolulu to be the bureau chief there. I was there until 1969 when the Tribune offered me the position of city editor and then managing editor. I thought I could wind up being editor of my hometown newspaper. Instead Scripps-Howard in 1980 named me editor of the El Paso Herald-Post and then in 1984 as editor of the Knoxville News-Sentinel.

I retired in 2001 at age 65 - the mandatory retirement age for Scripps' executives.

We returned to Albuquerque in 2001 since the Albuquerque Journal offered me a position on its editorial board and as a columnist. We returned to Knoxville in 2007 to be closer to family - grandchildren.

The most memorable story I covered was on Christmas Eve of 1968 when the USS Pueblo Crew upon being released by North Korea arrived on American soil at Midway Island. (I was one of only four journalists - one print reporter, one TV reporter, one print photographer, one TV photographer.)

In Honolulu, my wife, Victoria, and I helped establish the first Greek Orthodox Church in that state. And in El Paso, we helped to establish the Greek Orthodox Church there.

Connecting mailbox

Bravo to Noah Berger's fire photos

Cecelia White ([Email](#)) - A "chapeau" to San Francisco-based photographer Noah Berger for his extraordinary photos of the Northern California infernos, moved daily by AP. As his coverage of last year's deadly fires also showed, he has a truly exceptional eye. Bravo, Noah.

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The apostrophe wars

Joe Galu ([Email](#)) - At Albany Civic Theater, we had extensive debate over the Directors Showcase and the Playwrights Showcase (which I started). It was eventually decided that since these showcases are FOR the directors and playwrights, there need be no apostrophe. These events belong to the theater, not the directors and the playwrights. Succeeding generations have wobbled back and forth.

In Schenectady, the marque says it's Proctor's (theater), but most of their literature drops the apostrophe.

I have, long ago, given up looking for logic or consistency, although I did write an amusing not-for-publication letter to the Times Union about their use of the word 'sanguine' in a headline, congratulating them on raising the literary level of the newspaper in a Saturday edition, where very few people would see it. I also suggested some other headlines using sanguine. It produced some chuckles.

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Diana Heidgerd retires today after Dallas gathering celebrates her 36-year career



Gathering Monday for Diana Heidgerd's retirement party: first row/front, from left: Jake Bleiberg, Kim Johnson Flodin, Melissa Williams Finn, Jaime Aron, Diana Heidgerd (thumbs up!), Gail Stevens, Jamie Stengle, Katie Fairbank and Benny Snyder. Second row/Back, from left: Terry Wallace, Matt Slagle, John McFarland, Adam Kealoha Causey, Schuyler Dixon, Reese Dunklin, John Lumpkin, Mike Graczyk, Stephen Hawkins, Bob Stevens, Paul Heidgerd, Michael Dixon and Barry Bedlan. (Photo by Mat Otero, AP)

The 36-year AP career of Diana Heidgerd, a breaking news staffer in the Dallas bureau, was celebrated Monday by current and former AP staffers, as well as friends, who gathered in the Dallas bureau for her retirement party. Her last day with the AP is today.

Diana joined the AP in Miami in 1983 after working as a reporter, producer, anchor and news director at TV and radio stations in South Dakota and Nebraska. She moved to the Dallas bureau in 1985 as broadcast editor for Texas. She was part of the Texas staff honored in 1988 with a national Associated Press Broadcasters award for coverage of the deadly crash of Delta Flight 1141 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport. In 2009, Diana won a \$3,000 Gramling Spirit award, a companywide honor given to staff whose dedication to AP's mission is represented in exceptional and enthusiastic service to colleagues and customers.

In a note after the party, she shared a note that said, "Thank you so much for those of you who were able to stop by the Dallas AP office on Monday for my retirement party. It was so nice to see everyone! I hope you enjoyed checking out your former digs. There have been a lot of changes at AP over the years, but it's still the best news organization in the world. AP's Mat Otero was nice enough to send this party photo. It was really a lot of fun, thanks for taking part! I've also attached, for your viewing amusement, a favorite photo of mine - perhaps a better way to remember me. I took this selfie over the summer, while working a weekend shift at Dallas AP all by myself and just stopping for a second to catch my breath. It's been a good run with AP, I feel honored to have been blessed working as a journalist with the world's largest (and most respected) newsgathering organization."

Diana's email is - heidgerd@flash.net

Memories of military service - 'My life was forever changed'

Forrest Gossett ([Email](#)) - Forty-five years ago Tuesday, at around 10 p.m., a young 19-year-old got off a Trailways bus at the Fort Jackson, S.C., U.S. Army Reception Center to begin a journey that has influenced his entire life. I was no longer the young sports editor of the Fayette County News, I was a soldier - at least a soldier in training. My life was forever changed.

Early that day, at 6 a.m., my mother, with my three brothers and sister in tow, dropped me at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Jonesboro, Ga., to meet my recruiter, SFC Jimmy Buck. At that point, the Army was an abstract concept. By the time I reached the downtown Atlanta Armed Forces Entrance and Examination Station and raised my right hand to take my oath as a soldier, it started to turn into reality. After a long bus trip to Fort Jackson, my newly minted fellow soldiers and I went through three days of poking, prodding, shots, getting our nifty Army clothing, eating our first Army meals



Forrest Gossett

The we were sent via cattle car to our basic training company. Delta Company, Ninth Battalion, Second Combat Training Brigade (Delta 9-2, that who you see! The best damned company in the BCT, sir!) As we filed into the mess hall for our indoctrination to basic training, there was a moment or two of "oh, crap," what have I done?

When we finally selected bunks in our World War II barracks building, I ended up on the second floor, top bunk, end of the building. I met and quickly befriended a fellow soldier who, as me, was trying to absorb this thing called the Army. A friendship developed that helped us each go through the next nearly eight weeks of training. Don Davenport and I helped each other more than I think we both realize. The Army of 1974 was suffering the pains of racial tensions as U.S. involvement in Vietnam was winding down and the nation was dealing with the aftermath of an unpopular war and a new all-volunteer Army. Don and I were opposites, but we quickly bonded. Race was not an issue. Only friendship and how we treated each other and people mattered.

Our lead drill sergeant, SFC Daniel Epps, was a stern task-master and great teacher. He was a veteran of multiple combat tours in Vietnam who turned a diverse group of mostly teenagers into soldiers.

After basic training, Don and I lost track of each other. We went on the path that the Army chose for us. I went to the Army's version of journalism school at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., and was assigned the U.S. Army ceremonial unit, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) in the Military District of Washington. However, about two years ago, Don and I hooked up on Facebook. We both charted our courses for life, but I can say from my perspective, that friendship 45 years ago helped influence my life in ways that I may never fully understand.

Following three years of active duty, thanks to my Army service, I was able to attend American University in Washington, D.C. For several years, I remained in either Army National Guard or Reserve units, even managing to graduate at nearly 30 years old from Officer Candidate School.

Now, 45 years later, my life is still influenced by my Army service, and by what had been a long-lost friendship with Don.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Forrest Gossett's journalism career included the Lake County (Ohio) News Herald, Crain's Cleveland Business, Wichita Eagle, Wichita Business Journal and Tampa Bay Business Journal. Since 2017, he has been editor of a community weekly newspaper, the Salt River Journal in Paris, Mo.)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Gene Blythe - gblythe43@bellsouth.net

Elizabeth Brenner - efbrenner@gmail.com

Mike Graczyk - mlgraczyk@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Ginny Sherlock - vsherlock@lshlaw.net

Stories of interest

Picturing Obama: Eight Years of Photographing the First Black President (WNYC)



Photo by Lawrence Jackson

(Connecting editor's note: Lawrence Jackson was an AP staff photographer from December 2000 to March 2009, starting in Boston and moving to Washington in 2002.)

WNYC News

"Honestly, I hadn't thought about being a White House photographer at all until President Obama came around," photojournalist Lawrence Jackson told WNYC's cultural critic Rebecca Carroll. "If Hillary Clinton had been the nominee, I would have stayed at the (Associated Press). And that's no knock against her. It just shows how much I appreciated him and thought his message was important."

Although he is quick to acknowledge the political impact of President Obama as both a leader and a black man in America, Jackson says his new book, *Yes We Did* - which includes not just photographs, but commentary in honor of the 44th president - is not about politics, but about capturing the emotional complexity of a man and his family.

Invariably, as a black man photographing another black man in his role as the highest elected official in America, a country founded and built on the backs of black people, race factors in to how Jackson viewed and now reflects on President Obama.

"I often think if he were a white guy, he'd be 10 times more popular than he was," he said. "What I'm trying to figure out with race is, is it because he's a black guy, or because he's a good guy who is concerned and aware of the issues?"

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Marty Steinberg.

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Meet the Fox reporter who is bedeviling Trump on Syria (Politico)



Fox News reporter Jennifer Griffin asks former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a question. | Justin Sullivan/Getty Images

By MICHAEL CALDERONE

When President Donald Trump claimed in a Monday Cabinet meeting that "we never gave a commitment to the Kurds," the U.S. ally recently abandoned in northern Syria, an immediate rebuke came from a source not easily dismissed as "fake news": a Fox News correspondent.

"Not true," Jennifer Griffin tweeted. "According to a former top senior military adviser to President Trump, 'We told them over and over 'We are your friends. We will never leave you.'"

The tweet was a sign of Griffin's emergence as the reporter most willing to fact-check and contradict Trump's claims about Syria to an audience accustomed to less critical coverage. Griffin's early revelation that Trump had "gone off script" in his fateful phone call with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before Turkey's invasion of Syria gave many conservatives the grist to question Trump's actions. And her continued efforts to push back against Trump's assertions have thwarted the White House's efforts to portray the Turkish action against the Kurds as inevitable.

Read more [here](#).

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Why I'm starting a company to build out a new model for local news in the 2020s (Nieman)

By **KEN DOCTOR**

Over the past decade here at Nieman Lab, I've reported a lot of news industry news. Today, I'm sharing some of my own.

After months of work, I'm happy to begin introducing the new company that I'm heading, named Lookout. It's a wide-reaching new model for local news; we'll launch next year.

After 15 years providing analysis of the global news industry, the last 10 of them here, I felt compelled to meld together the best of what I've seen and heard - the best of the best practices of the trade - in a way we haven't seen yet. It's my opportunity, and my calling at this moment, to take the lessons I've learned from many of you who lead and work in the news industry and combine them anew. It's recombinant news DNA for the 2020s.

As John Davidow, managing director for digital at Boston's WBUR, recently put it after reviewing Lookout's plans: "It's like you got in the cafeteria line, but only took the good stuff."

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - October 31, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Oct. 31, the 304th day of 2019. There are 61 days left in the year. This is Halloween.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 31, 1941, the Navy destroyer USS Reuben James was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Iceland with the loss of some 100 lives, even though the United States had not yet entered World War II.

On this date:

In 1517, Martin Luther sent his 95 Theses denouncing what he saw as the abuses of the Catholic Church, especially the sale of indulgences, to the Archbishop of Mainz, Germany (by some accounts, Luther also posted the Theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg), marking the start of the Protestant Reformation.

In 1926, magician Harry Houdini died in Detroit of peritonitis resulting from a ruptured appendix.

In 1941, work was completed on the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota, begun in 1927.

In 1959, a U.S. Marine reservist showed up at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to declare he was renouncing his American citizenship so he could live in the Soviet Union. His name: Lee Harvey Oswald.

In 1964, Theodore C. Freeman, 34, became the first member of NASA's astronaut corps to die when his T-38 jet crashed while approaching Ellington Air Force Base in Houston.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a halt to all U.S. bombing of North Vietnam, saying he hoped for fruitful peace negotiations.

In 1984, Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by two Sikh (seek) security guards.

In 1994, a Chicago-bound American Eagle ATR-72 crashed in northern Indiana, killing all 68 people aboard.

In 1998, a genetic study was released suggesting President Thomas Jefferson did in fact father at least one child by his slave Sally Hemings.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990, bound from New York to Cairo, crashed off the Massachusetts coast, killing all 217 people aboard.

In 2001, New York hospital worker Kathy T. Nguyen (nwen) died of inhalation anthrax, the fourth person to perish in a spreading wave of bioterrorism.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated Judge Samuel Alito (ahl-EE'-toh) to the Supreme Court. Civil rights icon Rosa Parks was honored during a memorial service in Washington, D.C.

Ten years ago: A registered sex offender was arrested in Cleveland after police found six decomposing bodies at his home. (Authorities turned up the bodies of 11 women at the home of Anthony Sowell, who was convicted and sentenced to death

in 2011.) The New York Yankees won Game 3 of the World Series, defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 8-5 to give New York a 2-1 Series lead.

Five years ago: Commercial space tourism suffered a huge setback when a prototype passenger rocket, Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, exploded during a test flight, scattering debris over the Mojave Desert and killing one pilot while seriously injuring the other.

One year ago: President Donald Trump said the number of military troops being deployed to the U.S.-Mexican border could reach 15,000. Huge crowds of fans cheered as the Red Sox rumbled through downtown Boston aboard duck boats to mark the team's fourth World Series championship in the past 15 years. Baseball Hall of Famer Willie McCovey, a star first baseman and outfielder who played for the San Francisco Giants for 19 of his 22 major league seasons, died at the age of 80.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lee Grant is 94. Former astronaut Michael Collins is 89. Former CBS anchorman Dan Rather is 88. Folk singer Tom Paxton is 82. Actor Ron Rifkin is 81. Actress Sally Kirkland is 78. Actor Brian Doyle-Murray is 74. Actor Stephen Rea is 73. Olympic gold medal long-distance runner Frank Shorter is 72. Actress Deidre Hall is 72. TV show host Jane Pauley is 69. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell is 62. Movie director Peter Jackson is 58. Rock musician Larry Mullen is 58. Actor Dermot Mulroney is 56. Rock musician Mikkey Dee is 56. Rock singer-musician Johnny Marr is 56. Actor Rob Schneider is 55. Country singer Darryl Worley is 55. Actor-comedian Mike O'Malley is 54. Rap musician Adrock is 53. Songwriter Adam Schlesinger (SHLES'-in-ger) is 52. Rap performer Vanilla Ice (aka Rob Van Winkle) is 52. Rock musician Rogers Stevens (Blind Melon) is 50. Rock singer Linn Berggren (Ace of Base) is 49. Reality TV host Troy Hartman is 48. Gospel singer Smokie Norful is 46. Actress Piper Perabo (PEER'-uh-boh) is 43. Actor Brian Hallisay is 41. Actress Samaire (SAH'-mee-rah) Armstrong is 39. Folk-rock musician Tay Strathairn (Dawes) is 39. Actor Eddie Kaye Thomas is 39. Rock musician Frank Iero (My Chemical Romance) is 38. Actor Justin Chatwin is 37. Actor Scott Clifton is 35. Actress Vanessa Marano is 27. Actress Holly Taylor is 22. Actress Danielle Rose Russell is 20. Actress-singer Willow Smith is 19.

Thought for Today: "Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral." [-] Rosalind Russell, American actress (1911-1976).

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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