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Connecting - November 11, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

November 11, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 11th day of November 2019 - and Happy Veterans Day to my fellow veterans.

How should we honor our vets?

Terry Anderson ([Email](#)) - (USMC 1965-71): Honor our vets by opposing troops being sent to countries around the world where we have no dog in the fight - 800 bases in 120 countries, most of which we have almost no information about, including what they are supposed to be doing? Combat in 75 countries, mostly Special Forces? Soldiers and Marines with 13 or 14 tours in Afghanistan or Iraq? What do we think we're doing? Second, take care of our vets the way we promised. Stop screwing with the VA, stop killing bills in Congress that help vets, etc. And by the way, "Thank you for your service," while well meant, sounds insincere to a lot of vets. And companies that include in their ads "We support our troops" are not in fact supporting our troops. They are taking advantage of the present public high regard for them.

Writing about veterans who died in Vietnam

Two Connecting colleagues who regularly write columns for their hometown newspapers focused on those who died in the Vietnam War in their most recent columns.

Andy Lippman's "Around Town" column in the South Pasadena (Calif.) Review focused on ["The Faces of the Fallen"](#) and began:

MONDAY is Veterans Day. It is a day to thank those men and women who served in the military. This day - along with Memorial Day - is also a time to especially remember those people who died while serving their country.

Six men who spent all or some of their lives in South Pasadena gave their lives during the Vietnam War - a controversial conflict that split friends, generations and the country.

Writing in The Messenger of Fort Dodge, Iowa, **Paul Stevens'** Spotlight column was titled, ["Remembering the Webster County men lost in the Vietnam War"](#).

It began:

Terry Griffey may have become a college professor. Tim Green may have incorporated his love of music in the practice of the ministry. Roger Olson may have become an architect and home designer. Pat Trotter may have developed turbo engines. Lee Peters may have become an attorney.

But careers and long lives were not to be for these men - among 15 from Webster County who died in the Vietnam War - as well as a 16th casualty, James S. McGough, who died years after combat from hepatitis contracted from his war wounds. All 16 of their names are etched on the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington and on a plaque at Fort Dodge's Veterans Memorial Park.

On the eve of Veterans Day 2019, we honor those who died through interviews with their relatives and friends - each asked for a favorite memory, what their loved one may have become in life and how we can best honor those who died. I was unable to locate anyone who knew five of the veterans.

A salute to our Connecting veterans, who include:

Harry Atkins, Air Force, 1959-63.

Mike Holmes, Navy, 1970-72.

Dave Lubeski, Army, 1967-68, who writes:

"I served in the Army (1967-68) as a medic in the 2nd Battalion 13th Infantry stationed in Coleman Barracks near Mannheim, Germany. A few years back a few army pals met up at the home of one of them in Washington state and they kicked around the idea of tracking down others who served there then. Many were found and for the past few years about 25 or 30 of us from all walks of life meet in Branson, Missouri for a week-long reunion. The guests of honor include one of our 1st sergeants and our battalion commander, Col. Tom Blake who is now 96 years old and still sharp as a tack."



From the Heart

Martha McCarty (Email) - Impressions I formed more than two decades ago on the 50th Anniversary of D-Day when World War II veterans passed by in public view are ignited again on this Veteran's Day. As anniversary vets gathered, I saw feelings of remembered pride, fear, hope and faith bring grown men and women to tears. Emotions not lost or gone, only soothed by a layer of time, rose up from their hearts and showed in their eyes.

My father was not among the anniversary veterans because he was an old soldier we had already buried to the sound of military taps voiced by a bugle in the air:

*Soldier rest...gently pressed to the calm Mother Earth's waiting breast
Duty done...like the sun going west*

I understand my father now in a way I hadn't understood him while I was young. I cry for him on Veteran's Day. I cry for all veterans, young and old. In my heart, I honor them.

Memories from the past



Kathy Curran ([Email](#)) - My husband Tim's dad was a Navy officer serving in WWII and was gone for two years during Tim's childhood. When his ship docked in California, Tim and his mother took the train from their home in Wisconsin to visit him. Tim was three years old. This picture sits in our living room and he looks at it and speaks of it frequently. His dad is on the right of the left picture. That's Tim in the right picture.

Have a great day!

Paul (USAF, 1968-72)

Connecting mailbox

The housewife in your war correspondent's kit

Charlie Hanley (Email) - I'm grateful to Gene Herrick, in Friday's Connecting, for burnishing my resumé by crediting me with covering the Korean War. Alas, I was in diapers while Gene was turning out some of the best AP pix from that war. (He clearly was referring to our 1999 lookback coverage of the Korean War massacre at No Gun Ri.)

Gene was questioning the inclusion of "one housewife" in the War Correspondent's Kit of the celebrated reporter Richard Harding Davis (Spanish-American and other wars), my Connecting offering of Thursday. In fact, just this summer the British army caught some heat over this, as seen in *The Independent's* headline, "Army accused of sexism over 'housewife kits'." They're soldiers' sewing kits. The etymology's a bit murky.

Meantime, as it happens, the tail end of Davis's don't-leave-home-without-it list went astray on Thursday. Connecting colleagues might find it eye-opening. After the list that did appear, which included "one axe," "folding bath-tub," "two pairs of drawers," the indispensable housewife, and dozens of other comfort items, concluding with "one pad of writing paper," there's this...

One fountain pen, *self-filling*.
 One bottle of ink, with screw top, held tight by a spring.
 One dozen linen envelopes.
 Stamps, wrapped in oil-silk with mucilage side next to the silk.
 One stick sealing-wax. In tropical countries mucilage on the flap of envelopes sticks to everything except the envelope.
 One dozen elastic bands of the largest size. In packing they help to compress articles like clothing into the smallest possible compass and in many other ways will be found very useful.
 One pack of playing-cards.
 Books.
 One revolver and six cartridges.

OK on the gun. There are *banditos* out there. But *one* pad of paper, *one* pen and *one* bottle of ink? This is a guy who really got it right the first time!

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Adding to the advice-to-foreign-correspondents thread I started

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - One useful piece of advice came from the local Santiago, Chile staff. When I arrived as their new COB in 1987, they urged me to dress in tie and jacket when covering the city's frequent street protests and to keep my press credentials on an easily breakable cord around my neck, but tucked discreetly inside the jacket. Don't dress down, or wear the easily identifiable fatigue-style clothes favored by some out-of-town photographers, they said.

That's because the national police disliked the foreign press, which they considered too critical and thus disrespectful of the country's leader, Gen. Augusto Pinochet. And occasionally, when they would go after the protesters with their batons and riot shields, they would target journalists as well. They would choke them with their credentials cords, and sometimes put them in the hospital with broken noses or even skull or spine fractures.

If you were in business dress and your press credentials weren't obvious, they generally assumed you were a bystander caught up in the chaos, and they passed you by. At worse, you'd get a few baton-whacks on the back or legs.

It was great advice, especially since the tear gas and water cannons they employed would blind you and leave you helpless, on your knees or even your back. I was sometimes scared but never hurt.

Also, I thought my own leader, Lou Boccardi, would approve. He seemed to like his troops in a tie and jacket.

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In praise of his local daily - the Santa Rosa Press Democrat

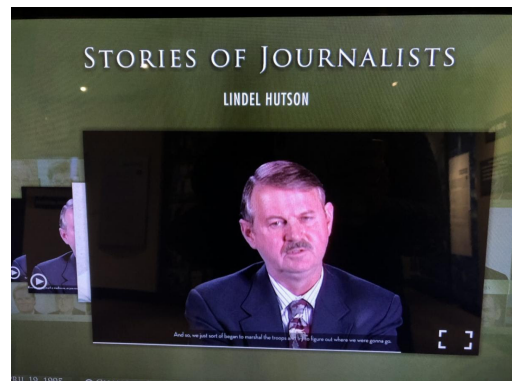
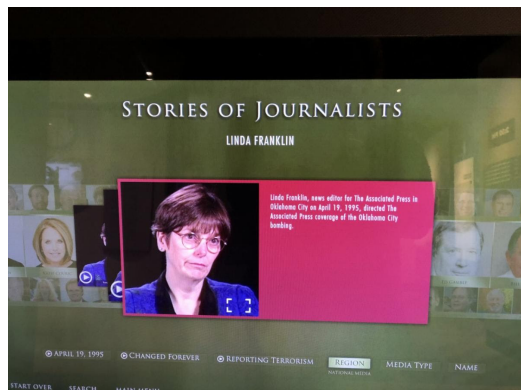
Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - Thanks for sharing the Poynter story on the Santa Rosa Press Democrat's coverage of the Kincadee fire. We who live in and near Sonoma County, California, are daily beneficiaries of the quality journalism of this well-staffed, locally owned quality newspaper. It did the job in print and online covering a demanding story.

Our region is fortunate to have the PD every day. It offers strong local, state, national and world coverage, plus thoughtful editorials and op-ed pieces.

It's good to see Poynter recognize this quality newspaper.

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Pleased to see AP references at Oklahoma City memorial





Sally Hale (Email) - We visited the Oklahoma City National Memorial Museum last Friday and were pleased to see many references to AP coverage of the 1995 bombing, including news leadership by COB Lindel Hutson and News Editor Linda Franklin and the iconic images by Charles H. Porter IV and David Longstreath. I'm attaching a few snaps.

Sorry to see Newseum closing its doors

Dave Lubeski ([Email](#)) - Thank you Bill Kaczor for your comments and the many photos of the Newseum displays. I visited several times when I worked in DC and twice was asked to speak to professor Mike Freedman's class that met there when I worked at George Washington University. I found the most impressive exhibit in the building was the compelling film on the NYC media hour by hour coverage of the 9/11 attacks on the twin towers. Sorry to see the Newseum closing its doors.

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A Caddy in Cuba



Ralph Gage ([Email](#)) - This picture is of a gift brought to me from Cuba by former (Lawrence KS) Journal-World photographer Richard Gwin.

The Caddy is painted on a copy of the Dec. 7, 2016 official organ of the central committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

Best of the Week

Dodging flames, AP team delivers extraordinary all-formats coverage of raging California wildfires



A firefighter passes a burning home as the Hillside fire burns in San Bernardino, Calif., Oct. 31, 2019. Strong winds were fanning new fires in Southern California, burning homes and forcing residents to flee in a repeat of a frightening scenario already being faced by tens of thousands across the state. AP PHOTO / NOAH BERGER

For a week straight, AP delivered an unmatched combination of photos, video and text chronicling raging wildfires and blackouts affecting millions of Californians.

When two burning tree limbs crashed in flames on the exact spot where Marcio Sanchez had been standing just moments earlier, the shaken AP Los Angeles photographer called two colleagues to check that they both had his wife's phone number, figuring that "if something happened to me, they could tell her." Despite his near-death experience, he then plunged back to work, capturing vivid images for AP clients of furious wildfires tearing across swaths of California.

Elsewhere in the state, veteran wildfire photographer Noah Berger sped down flame-lined roads in his Nissan Xterra, trailed by a reporter from The Wall Street Journal who documented how the photographer, a Pulitzer Prize finalist for his images of California fires in 2018, again tore from blaze to blaze to document for AP the latest raging fires that impacted millions.

While shooting the crackling flames, Berger always keeps his engine running, the Journal noted, because "there might not be enough oxygen to start it again."

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP Exclusive: Closing of coal plant on tribal land upends a community and a culture



AP Photo/Susan Montoya Bryan

AP correspondents Felicia Fonseca and Susan Montoya Bryan traveled to a remote tribal generating station in Arizona, and in words, photos and video showed how the

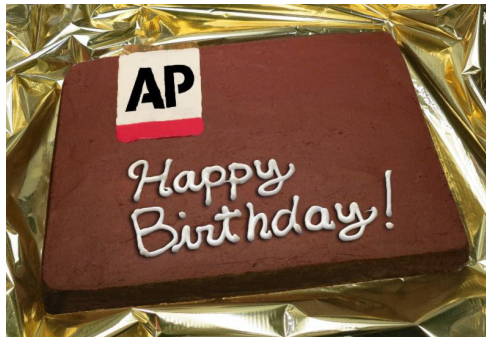
demise of one coal plant is causing upheaval for hundreds of workers, their families, the community and two tribal nations.

Coal-burning generating plants are closing in the U.S., and coal mines are shutting down. Worries of climate change and the new economies of renewable energy are disrupting an industry and upending the livelihoods of the people involved.

Against that backdrop, Flagstaff, Arizona, correspondent Felicia Fonseca and Albuquerque, New Mexico, supervisory correspondent Susan Montoya Bryan traveled to the remote Navajo Generating Station - on Navajo Nation near the Arizona-Utah border - to tell the story of workers, their families, a community and the tribal nations who have depended on coal and are feeling the profound effects of the plant's impending closure.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

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Stories of interest

Media beware: Impeachment hearings will be the trickiest test of covering Trump (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

The national media's shortcomings have been all too obvious in recent years as Donald Trump has gleefully thrown the norms of traditional journalism into a tizzy.

They've trafficked in false equivalence. Allowed President Trump to play assignment editor. Gotten mired in pointless punditry.

Granted, it's been a mixed record. Journalists have done a lot right - they have pointed out lies, dug out what's really happening, skillfully explained and analyzed.

But on Wednesday - as televised impeachment hearings begin in the House of Representatives - journalists need to be on their game. The stakes don't get much higher when it comes to fulfilling their core mission: informing citizens of what they really need to know.

Here's a refresher course in what needs to go right.

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

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'But you know, his grammar might have been right': Lt. Col. Vindman bashed John Solomon in testimony (Washington Post)



Former National Security Council Director for European Affairs Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman leaves an interview on Capitol Hill after reviewing his testimony in a closed-door session on Thursday. (Susan Walsh/AP)

By Erik Wemple

Media critic

Members of the Washington press corps love nothing more than to see their reporting surface in official proceedings, such as a White House press conference or perhaps a high-profile congressional hearing. It confers relevance. It means you're driving the conversation, to cite one of the more noisome journo-cliches of recent decades.

It's always best, though, when the official proceeding doesn't trash your stuff.

In his deposition last month on Capitol Hill, Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman characterized as "false" the work of John Solomon, the former executive vice president for digital video at The Hill, according to a transcript released Friday. Vindman just might know: He has served as the top Ukraine hand at the National Security Council and watched as Solomon's reports on the country in The Hill surfaced earlier this year. He gave his deposition as part of the House impeachment inquiry.

Today in History - November 11, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 11, the 315th day of 2019. There are 50 days left in the year.
Today is Veterans Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 11, 1972, the U.S. Army turned over its base at Long Binh to the South Vietnamese, symbolizing the end of direct U.S. military involvement in the Vietnam War.

On this date:

In 1620, 41 Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower, anchored off Massachusetts, signed a compact calling for a "body politick."

In 1831, former slave Nat Turner, who'd led a violent insurrection, was executed in Jerusalem, Virginia.

In 1918, fighting in World War I ended as the Allies and Germany signed an armistice in the Forest of Compiegne (kohm-PYEHN'-yeh).

In 1921, the remains of an unidentified American service member were interred in a Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in a ceremony presided over by President Warren G. Harding.

In 1929, the Ambassador Bridge spanning the Detroit River between Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Canada, was dedicated.

In 1942, during World War II, Germany completed its occupation of France.

In 1960, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem survived a coup attempt by army rebels. (However, he was overthrown and killed in 1963.)

In 1966, Gemini 12 blasted off on a four-day mission with astronauts James A. Lovell and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin Jr. aboard; it was the tenth and final flight of NASA's Gemini program.

In 1990, Stormie Jones, the world's first heart-liver transplant recipient, died at a Pittsburgh hospital at age 13.

In 1992, the Church of England voted to ordain women as priests.

In 1998, President Clinton ordered warships, planes and troops to the Persian Gulf as he laid out his case for a possible attack on Iraq. Iraq, meanwhile, showed no sign of backing down from its refusal to deal with U.N. weapons inspectors.

In 2004, Palestinians at home and abroad wept, waved flags and burned tires in an eruption of grief at news of the death of Yasser Arafat in Paris at age 75.

Ten years ago: For the first time since World War I, the leaders of Germany and France held a joint ceremony to commemorate the end of the conflict, saying it was time to celebrate their countries' reconciliation and friendship. Longtime CNN host Lou Dobbs announced he was leaving the network. Taylor Swift won four awards, including Entertainer of the Year, at the Country Music Association Awards.

Five years ago: Leaders of Asia-Pacific economies meeting in China agreed to begin work toward possible adoption of a Chinese-backed free-trade pact, giving Beijing a victory in its push for a bigger role in managing global commerce. Henry

"Big Bank Hank" Jackson, 57, a member of the pioneering hip-hop group The Sugarhill Gang, died in Englewood, New Jersey. Carol Ann Susi, 62, a character actress best known as the unseen Mrs. Wolowitz on "The Big Bang Theory," died in Los Angeles.

One year ago: World leaders including President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin solemnly marked the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I at a ceremony in Paris.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Narvel Felts is 81. Former Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., is 79. Americana roots singer/songwriter Chris Smither is 75. Rock singer-musician Vince Martell (Vanilla Fudge) is 74. The president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, is 74. Rock singer Jim Peterik (PEE'-ter-ihk) (Ides of March, Survivor) is 69. Golfer Fuzzy Zoeller is 68. Pop singer-musician Paul Cowsill (The Cowsills) is 68. Rock singer-musician Andy Partridge (XTC) is 66. Singer Marshall Crenshaw is 66. Rock singer Dave Alvin is 64. Rock musician Ian Craig Marsh (Human League; Heaven 17) is 63. Actor Stanley Tucci is 59. Actress Demi Moore is 57. Actress Calista Flockhart is 55. Actor Philip McKeon is 55. Rock musician Scott Mercado is 55. Actor Frank John Hughes is 52. TV personality Carson Kressley is 50. Actor David DeLuise is 48. Actor Adam Beach is 47. Actor Tyler Christopher is 47. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is 45. Actor Scoot McNairy is 42. Rock musician Jonathan Pretus (Cowboy Mouth) is 38. Actress Frankie Shaw is 38. Musician Jon Batiste is 33. Actress Christa B. Allen is 28. Actor Tye Sheridan is 23. Actor Ian Patrick is 17.

Thought for Today: "I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only as one who has seen its brutality, its futility, its stupidity." [-] President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969).

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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