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Connecting - November 12, 2019

1 message

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Tue, Nov 12, 2019 at 8:44 AM

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Connecting

November 12, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 12th day of November 2019,

The honoring of the men and women who serve or served in the nation's military is marked in many different ways on Veterans Day. But none more meaningful and moving for me, at least, than the ceremony held last Friday morning at the elementary school where my grandson Brennan is a third grader and my daughter Molly is a second-grade teacher.

Prairie Center Elementary School "Salutes America's Veterans" was the name of the hour-long program, which included presentation of the colors by Cub Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance by the kindergarten classes, the National Anthem led by a high school band and speeches and songs and lots of flag waving.

But what was most moving to me happened before the program began. That's when the 50 or so veterans on hand - including two World War II vets, one who served in the Battle of Iwo Jima - were led into the gymnasium by the band's drum line to the standing applause of 350 students and their teachers. Yep, I almost lost it and had to wipe away tears. I was not alone.



An hour before the program, I had filed Friday's Connecting in which our colleague **Jerry Jackson** recommended the best way to honor veterans "is to encourage our school systems to have Veterans Day programs so our youth will be more aware of

the many sacrifices made by the many generations of Americans who have served in our military and fought for this country."

How ironic, and how right he is. The point of all this? If you have children or grandchildren in school, and that school does not have a Veterans Day program, find a way to communicate the value of such programs. My daughter Molly helped organize this program four years ago. You'll be doing your fellow veterans - and your kids and grandkids - a big favor.

Here's to a great day ahead!

Paul

Flag, sunset close out Veterans Day 2019



A small American flag, left along the banks of Barnegat Bay in Waterfront Park in Ship Bottom, N.J., flies at sunset to mark the end of Veterans Day on Long Beach Island Monday, Nov. 11, 2019. Photo/Brian Horton

Brian Horton ([Email](#)) - Long Beach Island is a barrier island along the Jersey shore about 10 miles as the gull flies north of Atlantic City. Marilyn and I bought here in 1999 and used it for weekends and vacations until two years ago when we moved here full time. The island is 18 miles long and three-four blocks wide. Basically a big sandbar. The Atlantic Ocean is on one side and Barnegat Bay, which is several miles wide and separates us from the mainland, is on the other.

We go out each night to see the sunset and try to mix up where we go so we get a different view each night. We were on our way back from the mainland late Monday afternoon after running some errands and, with the recent time change which moved up the sunset, we were cutting it pretty close so we jumped off the causeway, which connects the island with the mainland, at our first opportunity, a park in Ship Bottom.

I saw the flag and at first thought it might have been part of a Veterans Day observance today. But, a closer inspection showed that it was pretty windblown and tattered so I'm guessing it had been there a while.

A silly mistake that you make

A Spring Wedding

Bruce Lowitt ([Email](#)) - I wrote this story, more for my own amusement than anything else as well as to savor the moment and record my own stupidity,, the evening of March 16, 2012, after I had covered a Toronto Blue Jays spring training game. It has never been published anywhere (although I've regaled friends and colleagues in telling it), but I now plan to include it as the last chapter of Into The Game, a second book of my sports stories, to be published early next year.

OLDSMAR, Fla. - So it's about 4:50 p.m. when I finish my Blue Jays spring training game story in WORD. I'm covering Toronto's home games in Dunedin as a correspondent for The Associated Press, which employed me as a sportswriter in New York from 1970-86. A little February-March freelance work.

I sign on to the Internet so I can e-mail my copy to the AP Sports Desk in New York. - except I can't get on the Internet. ADDRESS NOT FOUND shows up every time I try.

I refresh. No good. I restart. Still no good. The adapter is blinking, telling me I'm connected to the ballpark network and the signal is strong. The other writers are hammering away at their stories, and everything with my laptop is as it was in previous days.

I ask Jay Stenhouse, the Jays' PR guy, for assistance. He asks everyone to sign off for a moment. They do. He restarts the press box wireless system,

Everyone else signs on again. I get ADDRESS NOT FOUND, sometimes instantly, sometimes after a maddening 15-20 seconds.

Now it's about 5 p.m. I call AP Sports in New York to tell them the story will be a bit late. The editor tells me not to worry.

I know there's no deadline - except my own. I've got a wedding to get to.

At my request, Stenhouse tracks down an IT guy. He does whatever it is with my computer that IT guys do in situations like this. After five minutes he says he can't help me. I thank him for trying and mutter a few nasty words to myself.

I pack up my stuff and drive to a Starbucks where I'd successfully used their wi-fi in the past. I don't drink coffee but for the price of a croissant I figure it's a fair deal.

Now it's about 5:20. I unpack the laptop, plug in the adapter and sign on. Correction. I try to sign on. ADDRESS NOT FOUND, etc. I say some very bad words that appear to amuse a couple at an adjoining table.

I pack up my stuff again and jump into my car for the drive home. Why is it that people stopped in the right lane with their directional signal flashing don't understand that in Florida it's okay to make a right turn on red?

When I pull into the garage at 5:42 - by now I'm counting the minutes - Arlene's car isn't there. Damn! I guess she waited for me until it got too late, then headed to the wedding without me, expecting me to get there separately. I call her and get her voicemail.

I growl as I unpack my laptop yet again, go to WORD, open my game story, turn on my desktop computer, go to WORD, and start transcribing. I am really sweating, literally. I know I'm not going to get done until close to 6 p.m. And I still have to shower, shave, dress, etc., and drive to the wedding.

I finish transcribing the story a minute or two before 6, to go HOTMAIL, cut and paste the story, send it to AP Sports, call to confirm it's there, and dive into the shower.

As I'm drying off the phone rings. It's Arlene. I ask her why she had her phone turned off. She says she's sorry, that it died because there was a problem with the

charger.

I tell her, "I'll be there as soon as I can!"

"Where?"

"The wedding!"

"It's tomorrow."

After we hang up, I call AP Sports and tell the desk guy, "In the Blue Jays game story I just sent in, change Saturday to Friday."

Connecting mailbox

From The Chicago Tribune

AP needs to stop editorializing

I worked for The Associated Press office in Los Angeles during President Richard Nixon's second term. To say that Nixon was reviled by AP writers is an understatement. But we had old-school editors back then who played it right down the middle. They wouldn't tolerate any anti-Nixon editorializing by us shaggy, young reporters. Judging from the daily onslaught of anti-President Donald Trump AP articles being published in the Tribune, however, the inmates have taken over the AP asylum in NYC.

By the way, I felt contempt for Nixon in 1974, and I feel likewise about Trump in 2019. But I did not then, and I do not now, need some wild-eyed ideologue with a press pass to reach those conclusions for me.

Keep it up, AP, and I may just vote for the jerk.

— John Knoerle, Chicago

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Think of all the lives lost

Greg Nokes ([Email](#)) - I couldn't agree more with Terry Anderson (see Monday's Connecting). Experience beginning with Vietnam, if not before, is our intervention makes matters worse. Think of all the innocent men, women and children we've killed in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, etc., etc. with little accomplished beyond making new enemies for us. It's heart-breaking.

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A great memory - or imagination

Mort Rosenblum ([Email](#)) - I loved seeing Charlie Hanley's post on the Richard Harding Davis must-have correspondent's kit list. Of course, no one can survive without a roll-up rubber bathtub or that housewife (in these egalitarian days, house-spouse). But I most intrigued to see that Davis brought only one notebook. With all those details he reported, he must have had one of hell of a memory - or imagination.

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Connecting sky shots - Pensacola NAS





Bill Kaczor ([Email](#)) - Here are a couple "sky shots" I took at the Blue Angels Homecoming air show at Pensacola Naval Air Station that ended their 2019 season over the weekend. The first shows two Geico Skytypers crossing and the other shows four Blue Angels jets, two of them inverted. Here's [a link](#) to other photos I have taken of Blue Angels airshows this year at Pensacola Beach and Pensacola Naval Air Station that are posted on flickr.

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An AP photographer's memories of many years of football coverage

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - As I sit here in my rocking chair, memories of some of the events that occurred during my Associated Press photographic coverage of various football games floated forth.

The head coach at Ohio State University many years ago was the irascible Woody Hayes. I was at the stadium, about 1970, when OSU was getting ready to go to one of the bowl games. In walks the great St. Louis baseball great Stan Musial. He talked with a few players for a while, and then peeked in the slightly opened dressing room door of Hayes. "Hi, Woody," Musial said. Woody, replied, "I haven't got time for you today, Stan!" So much for that.

At Indiana University one day, about 1948, a rainy, muddy day, an IU player was knocked out of bounds, and he slid on his belly for about eight feet, and jammed his head under one of the player's benches. The players had to get up and pull him out.

In the 50's, I covered a game at Memphis State College (Now a university). One of the players was running like heck down the sideline, and headed for a touchdown. I ran right alongside to get a shot of it. As we ran rather close, a huge voice from the stands hollered, "Give the ball to Herrick!" The player looked over at me, with a questioning expression, as we continued to run.

In Cleveland, Ohio, about 1946, I was the camera bagboy for photographer Jim Mahler. One of those huge NFL players came off the field next to me. I bent my head backwards, looked up to him, and asked: "Does everyone call you sir?" He smiled in response.

At the University of Iowa, during the 1960's, anything could happen. In the Fall, the fans would throw apples at us folks on the sidelines. In the winter, they threw snowballs. That, in addition to a big cop from Des Moines, who, for whatever reason, monitored the sidelines to keep us away from the player's area. At that time I worked out of Minneapolis. My many forays into and out of Iowa would make a book.

John Croft, Minneapolis Tribune photographer, and I usually covered the same sporting events. One day, covering the lackluster University of Minnesota football game. I commented, jokingly, that the Minnesota kickoff receiver would probably fall on catching the opening kickoff and break his leg. Believe it or not, the receiver did fall, and did hurt his foot.

It was the first year for the newly organized Minnesota Vikings NFL team. Fran Tarkington was the quarterback. The offensive line was very weak, and like a sieve. Fran had to run all around the backfield to escape oncoming defensive players. One day, very early in the first quarter, "Big Daddy" Lipscomb, of the Baltimore Colts, one of the greats, rushed Tarkington, grabbed him by his jersey front, and, with one hand, picked him up, and then lay him on the ground, and saying, "Little boy, you gotta stop this running around. I'm getting tired, and I don't want to hurt you." Tarkington told the story himself.

During another Viking game, at Christmas time, I was taking pictures of the Viking's huge mascot, dressed like a Scandinavian Viking, and another person dressed as Santa Claus. I had a temporary caption writer, who was also charged with alerting me if there was a danger from players heading for the sidelines. Yep, two players, still battling each other, came up from my rear and knocked me on my shoulder, sending me flying. A player from Los Angeles came running, only to admonish me to

"Keep your eye on the ball." Minutes later, it was half-time. Vik's head coach, Norm van Brocklin, ran by me, knocked my shoulder, and said, "Heh, Gene, welcome to the NFL"

I always enjoyed it when the Green Bay Packers came to town, and I could cover the greats of Bart Starr, and head coach Vince Lombardi.

That also brings back the memory of covering football during a horrible-weather weekend in Wisconsin. I was stationed in Milwaukee. On a Friday night, I covered a night game in Milwaukee at the University of Marquette. The temp was near zero, and the field was frozen to the point the players had to wear tennis shoes for traction. The next morning I drove through a blinding snow storm to cover the Ohio State-Wisconsin football game in Madison. At the game, I could only see one-third of the way across the field. After that game, I drove home through the same storm. Then I got up early and drove through the continuing snow storm to cover a Green Bay Packers NFL game. I actually followed a snowplow into Green Bay, I shall always remember that weekend.

During my 28-years as an Associated Press staff photographer, I covered a lot of very important straight news events, plus many sporting events, including football. I was so blessed to meet, and cover, some of the really great coaches, including Norm Van Brocklin, Minnesota Vikings, Frank Leahey, Notre Dame, Paul "Bear" Bryant, Alabama, Tom Osborne, Nebraska, Vince Lombardi, Green Bay.

Samya Kullab named AP Iraq correspondent

By Patrick Maks

Veteran journalist Samya Kullab has been named Iraq correspondent for The Associated Press.

The appointment was announced Sunday by Middle East News Director Karin Laub.

Kullab, who is based in AP's Baghdad bureau, has covered the Middle East since 2013 and brings deep experience and detailed knowledge of Iraq that will help anchor the news cooperative's coverage of the country.

Previously, Kullab, 31, served as senior correspondent for Iraq Oil Report, where she produced in-depth coverage of the country's energy, political and security dynamics. She reported on fraud allegations that tainted the May 2018 federal election, rampant oil smuggling in Kirkuk and Basra, and the ongoing post-IS insurgency in northern Iraq.

Prior to Iraq Oil Report, Kullab worked as a freelance journalist covering migration, security and politics across the Middle East for several international news organizations.



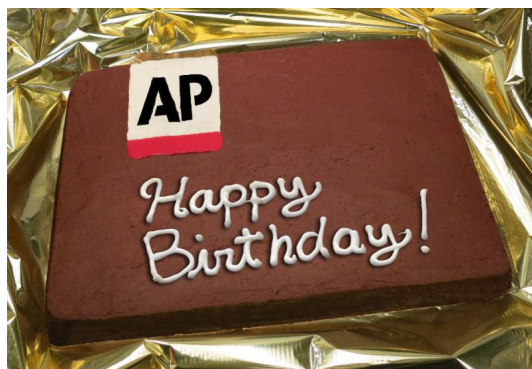
For three years she covered the spillover from the war in Syria, including the refugee crisis, border security and terrorism.

In 2017, she reported on the Rohingya crisis and the trafficking of migrant workers in Bangladesh.

Kullab studied at the University of Toronto, majoring in political science, philosophy and theater.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Ray Bolch - wrbolch@verizon.net

Lee Mitgang - mitgangl@msn.com

John Milburn - john.milburn@da.ks.gov

Stories of interest

Alan Miller: Collaboration with AP brings you detailed report on dam safety



Tony Dejak/Associated Press

By Alan Miller

The Columbus Dispatch

Today's story about the condition of dams across Ohio is another example of collaboration among news organizations for an in-depth report on an important topic - and an update of a story The Dispatch published in 2015 after state officials said Buckeye Lake was in such poor shape that "catastrophic failure" was a real threat.

The front-page article today (Sunday) about the condition of dams across Ohio is another example of collaboration among news organizations resulting in an informative, in-depth look at an important topic.

It's also an update of a story The Dispatch published in May 2015 after a federal study warned that the Buckeye Lake dam was in such poor shape that there was potential for catastrophic and deadly failure. An estimated 3,000 people would have been in the path of a wall of water if that dam east of Columbus had failed.

The 2015 Dispatch story said there are roughly 4,500 dams in Ohio. About 1,500 of them are earthen dams, like the original Buckeye Lake dam, and that 30% of them fell into the "high hazard" classification. That rating means that people downstream from those dams are likely to die if they fail, but it does not mean the 460 high-hazard dams in Ohio at the time were imminent threats.

As the Buckeye Lake emergency unfolded, and the state took action to reduce the threat and upgrade the dam, The Dispatch examined the condition of more than 60 other earthen dams in 15 central Ohio counties as well as Ohio's largest state-owned dams that are considered high hazard.

Ohio has been working to repair dams, as today's article notes, but some of the same dams that were concerns then still are concerns today, and that is a reason to keep this issue in front of Dispatch readers and anyone who could potentially do something to fix them.

Today's story originated with the Associated Press, which said in a note to editors that "age and neglect are taking a toll on dams around the country, as powerful storms from a changing climate make them more susceptible to being overwhelmed.

"Which dams are most at risk and present the greatest potential danger to downstream communities has been the subject of an Associated Press investigation that began more than two years ago," the AP editors said.

The result of the AP reporting is contained in a trove of exclusive data and documents that the AP made available to AP member papers, such as The Dispatch, so that we could analyze the relevant data for Ohio dams.

Read more [here](#).

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Uber CEO calls slaying of Jamal Khashoggi 'a mistake' and compares it to a self-driving car

crash (Washington Post)**By Deanna Paul and Faiz Siddiqui**

Uber CEO Dara Khosrowshahi called the slaying of Jamal Khashoggi "a serious mistake" by the Saudi government in an interview with Axios on Sunday, comparing it to the accident involving the tech company's self-driving car that killed a pedestrian last year.

"It's a serious mistake. We've made mistakes, too - with self-driving, and we stopped driving and we're recovering from that mistake," he said in the episode of "Axios on HBO." "I think that people make mistakes, it doesn't mean they can never be forgiven. I think they have taken it seriously."

The car accident was caused by a bad sensor, the interviewer reminded Khosrowshahi, then continued, "The CIA suggested that the crown prince had a role in ordering the assassination. That's a different thing - you didn't intentionally run someone over."

(The National Transportation Safety Board will meet Nov. 19 to rule on a probable cause in the crash.)

About an hour later, Khosrowshahi contacted Axios to clarify his comments on Khashoggi.

"I said something in the moment that I do not believe. When it comes to Jamal Khashoggi, his murder was reprehensible and should not be forgotten or excused," he wrote in an email, according to the publication.

Read more [here](#).

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How one teenager was hired and fired by the new Sports Illustrated (New York Daily News)

By DENNIS YOUNG

Sam Ouhaj found a freelance gig on Twitter. He churned out stories for no pay, and was abruptly laid off on a Friday. These are increasingly common experiences for writers of any age, but Ouhaj was laid off because Sports Illustrated executives found out he was a 17-year-old high school senior in Newburgh, New York.

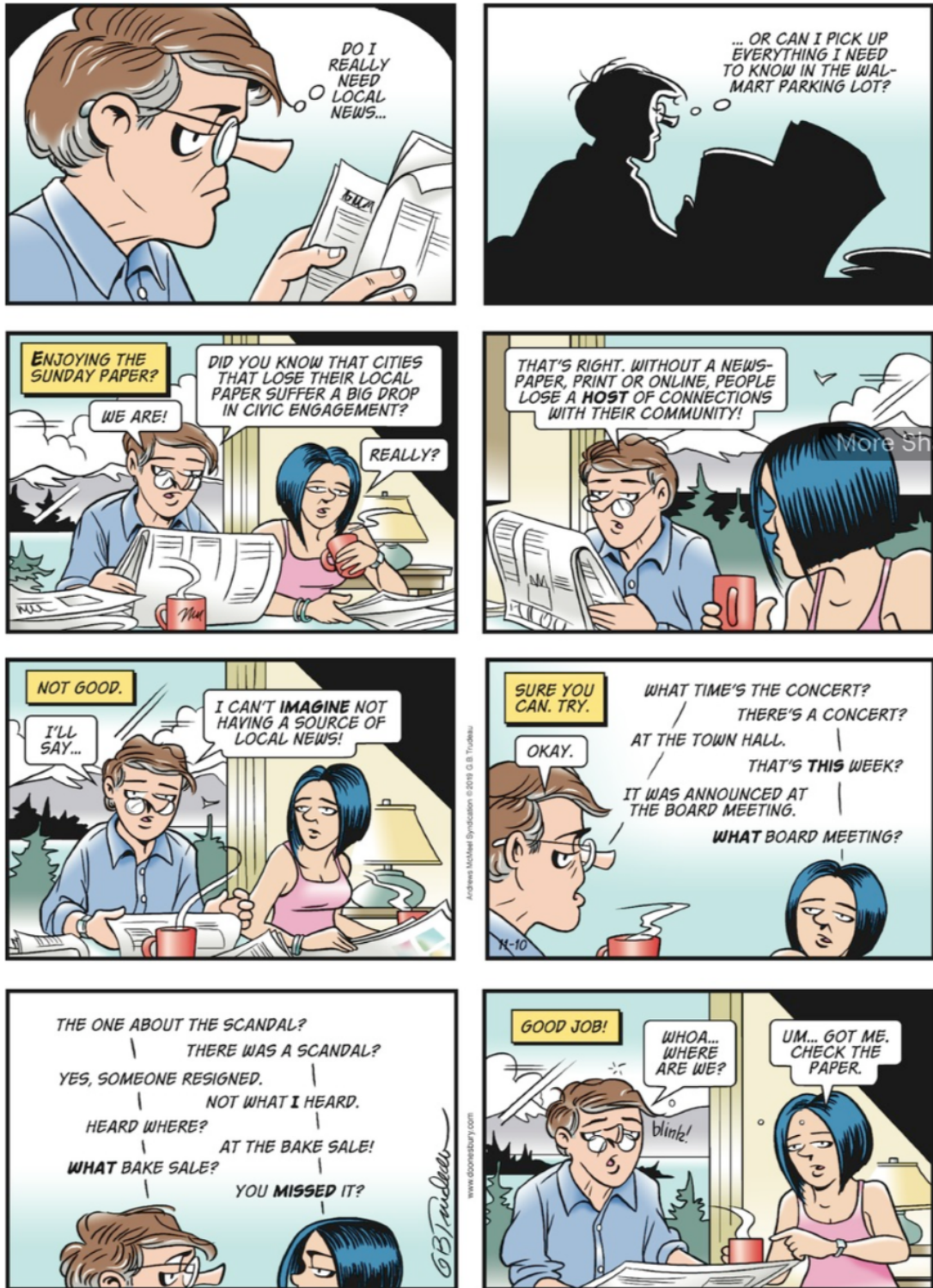
Ouhaj told the Daily News on Friday that his editor told him that his boss had said "since you have a high school senior writing for you, you need to have him released...This has come up from the highest officials at Sports Illustrated and ABG."

He had been quietly been writing hot takes on the Cincinnati Bengals - should they bench Andy Dalton? What about trading Cordy Glenn? - for Sports Illustrated since late September.

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

The Final Word

Doonesbury by Garry Trudeau for November 10, 2019



Shared by John Brewer

Today in History - November 12, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 12, the 316th day of 2019. There are 49 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 12, 2001, American Airlines Flight 587, an Airbus A300 headed to the Dominican Republic, crashed after takeoff from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

On this date:

In 1815, pioneering American suffragist Elizabeth Cady Stanton was born in Johnstown, New York.

In 1920, baseball got its first "czar" as Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis was elected commissioner of the American and National Leagues.

In 1927, Josef Stalin became the undisputed ruler of the Soviet Union as Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party.

In 1936, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge opened as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a telegraph key in Washington, D.C., giving the green light to traffic.

In 1942, the World War II naval Battle of Guadalcanal began. (The Allies ended up winning a major victory over Japanese forces.)

In 1948, former Japanese premier Hideki Tojo and several other World War II Japanese leaders were sentenced to death by a war crimes tribunal.

In 1977, the city of New Orleans elected its first black mayor, Ernest "Dutch" Morial (MAW'-ree-al), the winner of a runoff.

In 1982, Yuri V. Andropov (ahn-DROH'-pawf) was elected to succeed the late Leonid I. Brezhnev as general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee.

In 1987, the American Medical Association issued a policy statement saying it was unethical for a doctor to refuse to treat someone solely because that person had AIDS or was HIV-positive.

In 1990, Japanese Emperor Akihito (ah-kee-hee-toh) formally assumed the Chrysanthemum Throne. Actress Eve Arden died in Beverly Hills, California, at age 82.

In 1996, a Saudi Boeing 747 jetliner collided shortly after takeoff from New Delhi, India, with a Kazak Ilyushin (il-YOO'-shin)-76 cargo plane, killing 349 people.

In 1998, Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley filed a \$433 million-dollar lawsuit against the firearms industry, declaring that it had created a public nuisance by flooding the streets with weapons deliberately marketed to criminals. (A judge dismissed the lawsuit in 2000; an appeals court ruled in 2002 that the city of Chicago could proceed; but the Illinois Supreme Court dismissed the lawsuit in 2004.)

Ten years ago: Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan (nih-DAHL' mah-LEEK' hah-SAHN') was charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder in the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting rampage. (Hasan was later convicted and sentenced to death.) James R. Lilley, a longtime CIA operative and later the U.S. ambassador to China, died in Washington, D.C., at age 81.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping (shee jihn-peeng) announced a ground-breaking agreement between their countries to curb carbon emissions blamed for climate change. Landing with a bounce after traveling 4 billion miles, a European Space Agency probe, Philae (FY'-lee), made history by successfully reaching the icy, dusty surface of a speeding comet. Los

Angeles Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw was a unanimous choice for his third NL Cy Young Award, and Cleveland's Corey Kluber (KLOO'-bur) edged Seattle's Felix Hernandez to win the AL honor for the first time. At 17, Lydia Ko became the youngest player to win the PGA Tour's rookie of the year award.

One year ago: Democrat Kyrsten Sinema (SIN'-uh-muh) emerged as the winner of Arizona's open U.S. Senate seat, beating Republican Rep. Martha McSally after a slow vote count that dragged on for nearly a week. Palestinian militants bombarded Israel with dozens of rockets and mortar shells while Israeli warplanes struck targets throughout the Gaza Strip in what appeared to be the most intense exchange of fire since a 2014 war. Stan Lee, the Marvel Comics writer and publisher who revolutionized the comic book and developed superhero characters that made billions for Hollywood, died at the age of 95.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Brian Hyland is 76. Actor-playwright Wallace Shawn is 76. Rock musician Booker T. Jones (Booker T. & the MGs) is 75. Sportscaster Al Michaels is 75. Singer-songwriter Neil Young is 74. Rock musician Donald "Buck Dharma" Roeser (Blue Oyster Cult) is 72. Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., is 70. Country/gospel singer Barbara Fairchild is 69. Actress Megan Mullally is 61. Actor Vincent Irizarry is 60. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comaneci (koh-muh-NEECH') is 58. Actor Sam Lloyd is 56. Rock musician David Ellefson is 55. Retired MLB All-Star Sammy Sosa is 51. Figure skater Tonya Harding is 49. Actress Rebecca Wisocky is 48. Actress Radha Mitchell is 46. Actress Lourdes Benedicto is 45. Actress Tamala Jones is 45. Actress Angela Watson is 45. Singer Tevin Campbell is 43. Actress Ashley Williams is 41. Actress Cote de Pablo is 40. Actor Ryan Gosling is 39. Contemporary Christian musician Chris Huffman is 39. Actress Anne Hathaway is 37. Pop singer Omarion is 35. NBA All-Star Russell Westbrook is 31. Folk-rock musician Griffin Goldsmith (Dawes) is 29. Actress Macey Cruthird is 27.

Thought for Today: "I would have girls regard themselves not as adjectives but as nouns." [-] Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

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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