



Paul Shane <pjshane@gmail.com>

Connecting - November 25, 2019

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 8:52 AM

Reply-To: paulstevens46@gmail.com

To: pjshane@gmail.com

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Connecting

November 25, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 25th day of November 2019,

Congratulations to our colleague **Richard Drew** on his induction into the New York Journalism Hall of Fame - the first photojournalist in the Hall's 44-year history to be inducted. Richard joined the AP in 1970.

In a staff note, **Noreen Gillespie**, AP deputy managing editor for U.S. news, said,

"Take a look at that induction class. It's a group of journalism giants, and Richard is deservedly among them. If you missed the 9:15 global meeting today, where Richard earned a triple round of applause, make sure to carve out some time this weekend to read his remarks from the ceremony. He's the first photographer to be honored in the Hall of Fame's history, a remarkable achievement.



Richard Drew delivers remarks after his induction into The Deadline Club Hall of Fame, Thursday Nov. 21, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

"Here's my favorite:

'As I might be asked to photograph a City Council hearing, a perp walk at Midtown South or the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, I give every kind of assignment equal importance. I don't take pictures thinking: "Is this going to be the big one?" I just try to get the best image I can ... in every situation. I ask myself: "What would be a fresh way of looking at this?"'

Said Noreen, "That's advice that can guide every single one of us, every day, in every format."

Last Friday marked the 56th anniversary of President John Kennedy's assassination, and several of you contributed thoughts of JFK in today's issue.

CORRECTION: In the Walter Mears' story on impeachments in Friday's Connecting, it should have stated that Bill Clinton was in his second term when he was impeached in 1998.

Here's to a great Thanksgiving week ahead!

Paul

AP's Richard Drew inducted into NY Journalism Hall of Fame



Former ABC and how Ted Koppel, far left, Wall Street columnist Peggy Noonan, second from left, former NBC anchor Tom Brokaw, center, CBS "Sunday Morning" host Jane Pauley, second from right, and Associated Press photojournalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Drew, far right, pose before their induction into The Deadline Club 2019 New York Journalism Hall of Fame, Thursday Nov. 21, 2019, in New York. (AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

By The Associated Press

Five luminaries in news broadcasting, opinion writing and - for the first time - photography were inducted Thursday into the New York Journalism Hall of Fame.

NBC News' Tom Brokaw; Associated Press photographer Richard Drew; former ABC News anchor and current CBS contributor Ted Koppel; CBS's Jane Pauley, and Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal and NBC News were honored at a ceremony in Manhattan.

As the first photojournalist honored in the hall's 44-year history, Drew told the gathering that "by setting this precedent, you honor not just me, but every news photographer."

His distinctions include being one of a handful of photographers in the hotel kitchen where Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1968 and making the famous photo known as The Falling Man during the Sept. 11 terror attacks in 2001.

Pictures by Drew and other AP photographers on the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign trail won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize in feature photography, and Drew's work is in the collections of institutions including the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

Brokaw, Koppel and Pauley are among the most prominent figures in television news.

Read more [here](#).

Richard Drew's email is - rdrew@ap.org

Memories from a funeral

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - It's getting a bit foggy now. Still most of that Monday, 56 years ago stands out sharply in memory. I was standing on a knoll set back from a neat oblong dug into the grassy expanse at Arlington National Cemetery.

Nearby, there stood the President's widow. There were his two little children, surrounded by the family. And the ashen-faced crew that had been with him since Day One. There was General Charles deGaulle's towering presence among the circle of world leaders. And the devastated Cardinal Cushing, intoning with a flat Boston accent, prayers in ancient Latin.

The military, guarding the site in their dress uniforms, stood dead still. The silent assemblage stood before the oblong opening in the earth that lay waiting, waiting for

the mahogany container.

As it had been for the three days since the rifle shots in Dallas, there was little to say; there seemed no way - and no wish - to accept the reality of it. There was only the miasma, the roiling in the stomach, the tears coming at unexpected moments.

It seemed unreal being alive so near him, who had himself been so alive, now closed unmoving inside a mahogany container. Those were the thoughts two days earlier at the White House as I joined the others walking silently by the coffin resting in the East Room. And next day as my wife Dina and I joined the throngs paying respects as the President lay in state at the Rotunda of the Capitol.

Since first hearing the news, I was taken by competing desires, either to run away from or to be near the nation's Capital where I had been working for some two years. I chose to be as close as possible. After all, it was the election of this man, now closed in the mahogany container, that impelled me to give up a career in The Associated Press to join the thousands from across the nation with the same urge: to be some part of his New Frontier.

Had it been a mere three years before this funeral, on the night before the presidential election, that I was in Victory Park in Manchester, N. H., as part of an AP team, to hear him give a stirring end-of-campaign speech? Had it been only three years ago that he had emerged victorious, a youthful and vigorous new leader for our country?

But now the promise had turned to dust. Washington was a city in shock and sadness, all in black. The family's women in black dresses and veils, the men in black frock coats. Black limousines stretched in a humming row. A black-draped caisson bearing the body. Muffled drums covered in black. Black Jack, the saddled horse with no rider, prancing in the funeral procession. An estimated one million people lined the avenues along the route - with hardly a sound.

The sense of loss seemed somehow personal. How can he be gone? What will we do now? There was the feeling of being set adrift on a dark sea. The bright future for Dina, for me, for our David and Michael, had for the moment at least, blinked out.

Now, as the funeral rites drew to a close, a vee formation of Air Force fighter jets passed overhead, with one empty space for the fallen commander-in-chief. Deep-mouthed cannons boomed a 21-gun salute. Three rifle-shots rang out sharply. Taps sounded and resounded mournfully. The American flag draping the coffin was folded into a triangle and handed to the widow. She bent and lit the eternal flame. And it was over.

All was quiet as I turned away and headed for home.

JFK's inaugural words led to his career in journalism

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - The day John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas I was a 10-year old in Mrs. Thomson's fifth-grade class at Pacheco Elementary School in Novato, California. I can vividly recall the moment I learned that my hero, the 35th president of the United States, was assassinated. Our principal, Mr. Carter, a small, bespectacled man dressed in coat and tie we rarely saw otherwise, came into the classroom to deliver the bad news. For me, that moment began and ended as quickly as the words left his mouth. When I went home, I was glued to the TV set for the days of painful coverage that left me in tears and depression much of the time. I carefully read the San Francisco Chronicle each day that came to our home on Crescent Drive, and even to this day have held on to those newspapers.

I am forever thankful to President Kennedy for instilling in me an interest in politics and journalism. My parents, a homemaker and 30-year, career military man, were not interested in politics and did not even vote for the first time until they were in their fifties - and only after I pleaded with them to do so. But for some reason, I became fascinated with the Kennedy-Nixon campaign in 1960. During the closing days of that presidential campaign, I was a second grader and joined my 23-year-old, Polish-born immigrant half-brother, Walt, in posting our homemade Kennedy for President signs in our neighborhood. At the time, we didn't know we were violating the law, so it was bewildering to see military police take the signs down as fast as we would put them up on Hamilton Air Force Base. Kennedy would win, of course, and Americans everywhere, including myself, would take to heart the words of his Inauguration, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." I would ultimately decide what I personally could best do to help my country was be a news reporter and work hard to unearth the stories to help voters make sound decisions as to who their leaders should be. I am proud that two of my late West Virginia grandmother's sons and a grandson are buried a short distance from President Kennedy's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery. When I visit my father's grave, I do not forget President Kennedy's as well. I made it a special point to visit their graves on Nov. 22, 2013, a half-century after JFK was tragically gunned down.

JFK was fun to cover



Sen. John F. Kennedy in Minneapolis, in the 1950's. (AP Photo/Gene E. Herrick)

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - While working for the AP out of Minneapolis, I enjoyed covering Jack Kennedy during the late 1950's and then John F. Kennedy, the president of the United States in the early 1960's whenever he would travel throughout the Midwest.

The presidential campaign was the most interesting because it tested the young Kennedy, who was wealthy and handsome. He was also a Roman Catholic and from what was considered in those days the cultural East. He was campaigning against Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, a typical Midwest Protestant, from the somewhat rural area of the country. In addition to being the youngest candidate to seek the office, the burning question was whether or not a Catholic could win the presidency at that time?

I first photographed Kennedy in 1960 while he was in Milwaukee. The Kennedy campaign was fast and vibrant. The press corps flew through the Milwaukee streets at speeds exceeding 60 MPH, and with only little three-wheel police motorcycles as

escorts. We felt empowered, like the usual rules didn't apply, as we raced through the city streets and ignored red traffic lights.

During a visit to a television station, I spent some time talking with Kennedy's wife, Jackie, in the semi-dark shadows of a hallway. An odd take-away from that encounter that I still recall was how much she perspired under her arms, leaving her sleeveless dress quite damp.

On another trip I went for a couple of stops to River Falls, the western part of Wisconsin. Two of the photos I took that day, one showing a little boy with his legs crossed, and the other with Kennedy on stage speaking, demonstrated how photogenic he was and how the copy seemed to write itself. I also took pictures of him while covering the National Governor's Conference at Glacier National Park in Montana, but was then pulled off that assignment to fly to Helena for JFK's visit to the state Democratic Party convention. Incredibly, Kentucky Governor Bert T. Combs offered for me to use his plane so I could get there quickly. I was the only passenger and the crew fixed me a bourbon and water for the trip.

Another time I covered candidate Kennedy while he was in Iowa. His plane stopped a little further out on the tarmac and the big crowd waiting for his arrival rushed to the plane for a view of their idol. I ran with them and as the crowd began filling in tighter and tighter, I had to hold my camera equipment over my head. The crowd, probably 90 per cent women, pushed inward. I felt crushed and could barely breathe. I envied Kennedy, who stood freely on the top of the debarking ramp, where he gave a short speech.

The last time I was with Kennedy, was in Duluth, Minnesota, the week before he was assassinated. The hotel lobby was full. There was an open area above the lobby and people lined the grillwork barrier to view the president arriving. I was in the middle, ground level, to take a picture of the crowd in the foreground. The president was passing in the middle with the crowd above. I took the picture and then tried to work my way through the crowd to follow Kennedy into the speaking area. There was only one small door, which was guarded by two local policemen. All of a sudden, a hand reached in, grabbed my coat and pulled me out. It was a Secret Service agent. "Come on, Gene," he said. "if you don't get through that door now, you will never make it!"

The following week President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. The AP had me on standby to fly to there, but in the end there were enough photographers nearby who could get to the scene sooner.

And that was just fine with me.

Connecting mailbox

Binaya Guruacharya, AP correspondent in Nepal for 38 years, dies in Kathmandu

Arthur Max ([Email](#)) - Binaya Guruacharya, who wrote countless stories on the dramas and traumas of Everest expeditions as AP correspondent in Nepal for 38 years, has died in Kathmandu. He was 82 and suffered from Parkinson's for several years.



The Himalayan, Nepal's premier English-language newspaper, called him "the pioneer of journalism in the English medium." He also was the founder of the Nepal Forum for Environmental Journalism.

In my 10 years in the New Delhi control bureau in the 1990s, Binaya guided The AP through repeated political upheavals and intrigues of the royal palace. A journalistic institution in Kathmandu, his contacts penetrated the top levels of government regardless of which party passed most recently through the revolving door.

He was best known for covering the attempts, both triumphant and tragic, to conquer the world's highest peak. He joined AP in 1960, just seven years after Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary mastered the mountain for the first time.

Among his most dramatic stories were his reporting on the May 1996 disaster when a freak storm trapped several expeditions near the summit. Eight climbers, including two veteran guides were killed. As told in Binaya's stories, New Zealander Rob Hall dug an ice cave 500 feet below the summit from where he made a satellite call to his wife in Christchurch. Coverage of the disaster, from the first warnings of the storm to the rescue of survivors and their harrowing tales, continued for days. Journalist Jon Krakaur, who was on the expedition, described it in a best-selling book that was made into a movie.

Binaya retired two years later, handing over the Kathmandu AP correspondence to his son Binaj Gurubacharya (the difference in spelling is correct), who still heads AP's operations there. Binaj posted this most recent picture of his father on Facebook.

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Remembering an assignment to interview Mister Rogers - and bringing his daughter along



Mister Rogers and Lady Aberlin

Dave Tomlin ([Email](#)) - The posthumous "moment" Mr. Rogers is having amid the publicity surrounding the new Tom Hanks film is bringing back memories of my own moments with him in person 40 years ago. Here's my bit of ultra-redundant testimony that the "real" Mister Rogers was just like the one he played on TV.

I was correspondent in Pittsburgh, where "Mister Rogers Neighborhood" was produced at WQED, the public television station. It was 1979, and as I recall the show was in reruns. But Mr. Rogers had reassembled his cast and crew to make a short series of programs about the anxieties kids have as they get ready to go to

school for the first time. He had been inspired by a random conversation with a child he encountered on an airplane who was fretting about it.

The station said I could interview Rogers at the studio. Our older daughter Heather, aged 8, was a little old for "Neighborhood" by then, but she had once been an avid fan and said a big "YES" when I asked her if she wanted to come.

It was probably a mistake, but not because of anything Heather did. The show's producer and director were trying to get things ready for some shooting later in the day. Rogers and the only other cast member on hand, Betty Kay Ageloff who played Lady Aberlin on the show, were supposed to be helping. Instead, they attached themselves to Heather, showing her around the sets she knew so well from her toddler days in front of the small screen and asking her all about herself.

The director and the station publicist tried repeatedly to get them focused on the business at hand. They couldn't, and finally resorted to luring Heather away for an inspection of the soundproof production booth with all its lights, buttons and dials.

I don't have a copy of the story I wrote, but I remember mentioning - and possibly even leading with - the fact that in the world of Rogers and Ageloff, a physically present child trumped anything and everything else.

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On Walter Mears' comparison of three impeachment hearings

Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - It was wonderful to read Walter Mears' story in Friday's Connecting comparing the three impeachment hearings. I can always almost hear his voice when he writes - the facts are there moving faster, or slowly, in a conversational fashion through his story.

Walter's talks at conventions and AP meetings were so successful because of the way he presented his topic in a style which was really a dramatic retelling of the facts, with an eye for detail that others might miss.

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Jack Limpert (Email) - I was a Congressional Fellow in 1968 with Vice President Humphrey and ended up as the de facto assistant press secretary on the presidential campaign so I got to watch Walter Mears in action. Everybody, I mean everybody, looked up to him and wanted to know what he thought was important.

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Bruce Lowitt (Email) - Walter Mears writes of last week's impeachment inquiry hearings; "So far at least, nothing stirring or dramatic."

Perhaps he wrote his observations prior to Wednesday's session with Ambassador Gordon Sondland (if he's still got the job) or Thursday's with Dr. Fiona Hill and David Holmes.

Earlier hearings had long "bureaucratic and mundane" stretches, as Walter wrote, but I found the last two days' sessions entertaining as Sondland twisted, turned and tap danced through his replies, dragging down Trump Administration officials with him, and riveting as Dr. Hill in particular and Mr. Holmes dealt with the withering questioning by House Intelligence Committee members.

Regardless of the outcome, whether or not the President is impeached and removed from office, I believe some moments of these hearings will live on in people's memories as long as those of the Watergate hearings, like John Dean's "We have a cancer within, close to the presidency ..." and Alexander Butterfield's "I was wondering if someone would ask that. There is tape in the Oval Office."

Not to mention Donald Trump's "I need a favor, though..." alongside Richard Nixon's "I am not a crook."

Connecting tree shot - Capitol Hill, Washington DC



Photo by Kristine Beardsley (Goddughter of Ye Olde Connecting editor and his wife.)

Best of the Week

AP dominates with live video, photo coverage of fiery Hong Kong university siege



Hong Kong photographer Kin Cheung stands among pro-democracy protesters during a standoff with riot police in the city's Lan Kwai Fong district, Oct. 31, 2019. AP PHOTO / KELVIN CHAN

When heavily-armored police stormed protesters occupying Hong Kong's Polytechnic University, carefully positioned AP journalists were there to document the violent confrontation that ensued. Photographers and video journalists captured the smoky trails of tear gas canisters lobbed at protesters clutching umbrellas, students rappelling from bridges to waiting motorbikes, an armored vehicle pelted with Molotov cocktails, and students - some bloodied - being taken into custody.

The effort to retake the school and arrest protesters trapped on the campus was beamed to customers around the globe in real-time, putting AP ahead with its photos and live video of a dramatic escalation in the struggle between authorities and those protesting Beijing's tightening policies toward Hong Kong.

The scoops were the result of months of on-the-ground work by AP visual journalists in Hong Kong, careful planning of how to document the siege and wise use of AP resources around the world.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

LA photographer's son locked down in school shooting; team coverage stands out



AP Photo/Marcio Jose Sanchez

Sometimes, work is a salve for stress. And sometimes, solid reporting in chaotic circumstances provides clarity and trust.

Those realities were displayed in AP's coverage of the mass shooting at Saugus High School in the Los Angeles suburb of Santa Clarita.

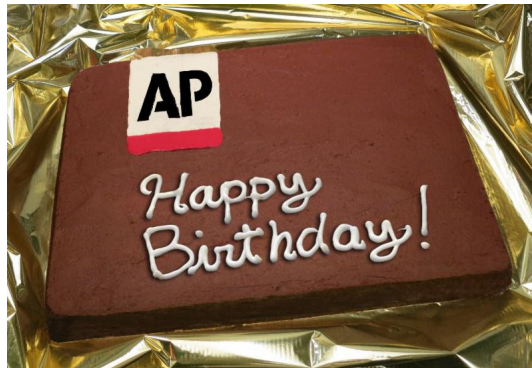
Barely two weeks after narrowly escaping a falling tree branch while covering California's wildfires, Los Angeles photographer Marcio Sanchez found himself in a nearly unfathomable position: He was making news photos outside a high school where a gunman had opened fire while one of his sons was locked down inside.

When Sanchez learned of the shooting he joined hundreds of other parents who rushed to the scene. Of course he was also carrying his camera. He was able to text with his son Noah, who was trapped in a locker room with his basketball teammates. They had been practicing before classes when gunfire erupted around 7:30 a.m.

Noah assured his father he was safe - but of course no parent in that situation can relax. So Sanchez eased his nerves by photographing the scene of police with guns drawn leading students to safety and tearful parents waiting to see their children.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday

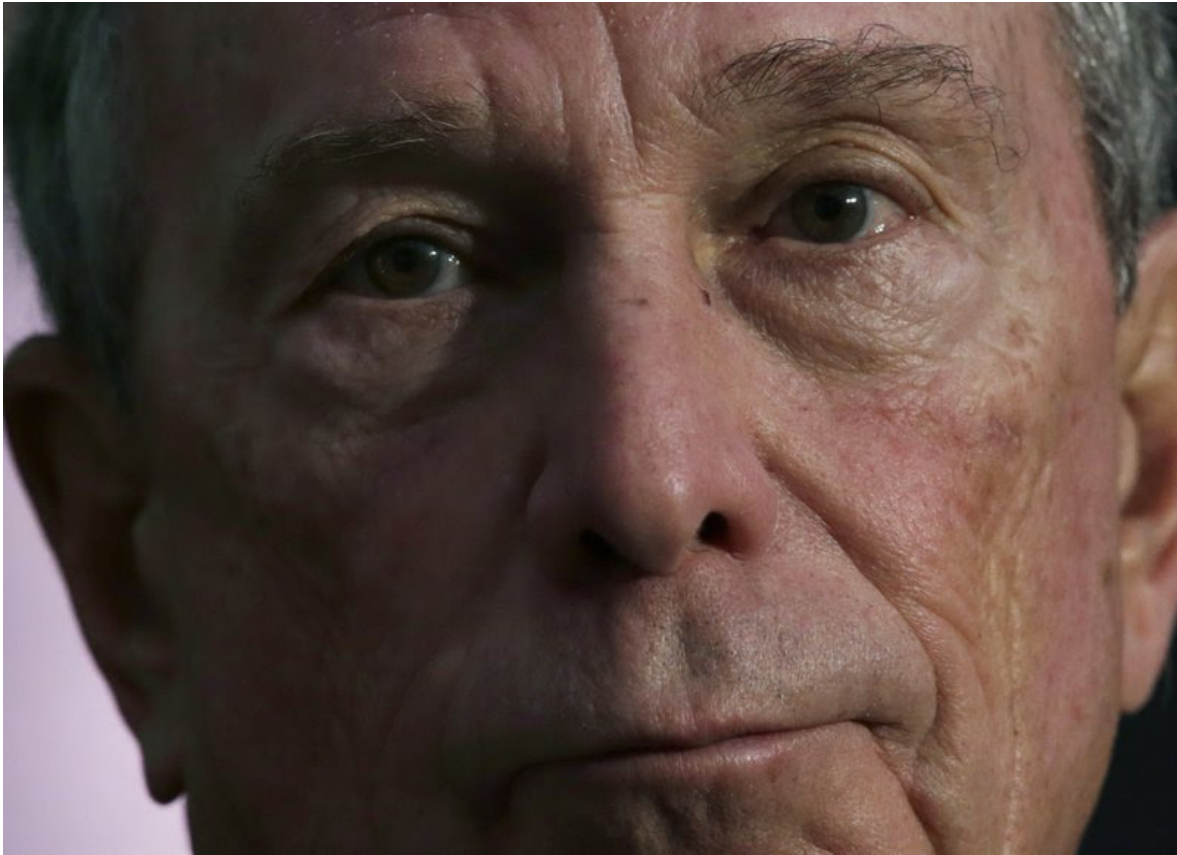


to

Joe Frazier - joebfrazier@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Bloomberg entry into presidential race raises ethics issues



2016 file photo. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

By DAVID BAUDER and RACHEL LERMAN

NEW YORK (AP) - With Michael Bloomberg now running for president, the news service that bears his name said Sunday it will not "investigate" him or any of his Democratic rivals, and Bloomberg Opinion will no longer run unsigned editorials.

Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait announced the new rules in a note to his news organization's 2,700 journalists and analysts Sunday, shortly after the former New York City mayor announced his candidacy.

"There is no point in trying to claim that covering this presidential campaign will be easy for a newsroom that has built up its reputation for independence in part by not writing about ourselves," Micklethwait wrote.

Bloomberg started his news service in 1990 to complement the financial information he sold to customers. It has since expanded, with its news available in many formats, including a television and radio network and Bloomberg Businessweek magazine.

The entry of Bloomberg into the presidential race also raises potential conflict-of-interest questions involving his extensive business holdings, which go well beyond his news service. Bloomberg's businesses, which include selling financial data services, employ more than 19,000 people in 69 countries.

Read more [here](#).

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The death knell for local newspapers? It's perilously close. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan

Media columnist

Given the tumult in the realm of government and politics, the dire state of the local newspaper industry may seem minor.

But it's of crucial importance to the future of the nation. Local watchdog journalism matters: Just check the front page of the Baltimore Sun, which on Thursday carried a huge headline about the former mayor's indictment; the Sun - even in its diminished state - broke the story in March that set those wheels in motion.

I could give you dozens of other examples from this year alone. And consider that sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein might have gotten away with most of his misdeeds if not for local journalism, particularly at the Miami Herald.

But the recent news about the news could hardly be worse.

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

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What if truth were a political position? (Times of Israel)

By DAN PERRY

The decision to indict Benjamin Netanyahu caught me at a conference in Paris where leaders of the news media wrestled with the industry's many woes, first and foremost how to gain trust in an age of fabrications and divisions. They needed look no further than Israel for evidence of how severe these problems have become.

What do you do when the very idea of truth - and perhaps the notion that there need to be journalists - is under assault by a major political movement? In such a situation the defense of truth, and the championing of journalism itself, become political positions. And if people believe the media has collectively taken a political position, it is discredited in their eyes overall.

And there is no question that indeed that has occurred. Appearing on stage at News Xchange 2019, my much-admired former AP colleague Sally Buzbee, now executive editor, presented the findings of a new study which showed how widely Americans believe they cannot trust various sources of information, including the media.

Read more [here](#).

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US judge awards \$180M to Post reporter held by Iran

By JON GAMBRELL

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) - A U.S. federal judge has awarded a Washington Post journalist and his family nearly \$180 million in their lawsuit against Iran over his 544 days in captivity and torture while being held on internationally criticized espionage charges.

The order in the case filed by Jason Rezaian came as Iranian officials appeared to begin restoring the internet after a weeklong shutdown amid a security crackdown on protesters angered by government-set gasoline prices sharply rising. The U.S. government has sanctioned Iran's telecommunications minister in response to the internet shutdown.

U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon in Washington entered the judgment late Friday in Rezaian's case, describing how authorities in Iran denied the journalist sleep, medical care and abused him during his imprisonment.

"Iran seized Jason, threatened to kill Jason, and did so with the goal of compelling the United States to free Iranian prisoners as a condition of Jason's release," Leon said in his ruling.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Adolphe Bernotas.

The Final Word - a birthday drive



Paul Stevens - Sunny skies and temperatures in the lower 60s were all the excuse that the three of us (Linda, Ollie and I) needed for a top-down spin around Kansas City on Sunday to celebrate Linda's latest birthday. It's how we roll (...and bark)!

Today in History - November 25, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 25, the 329th day of 2019. There are 36 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 25, 1986, the Iran-Contra affair erupted as President Ronald Reagan and Attorney General Edwin Meese revealed that profits from secret arms sales to Iran had been diverted to Nicaraguan rebels.

On this date:

In 1783, the British evacuated New York during the Revolutionary War.

In 1914, baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio was born in Martinez, California.

In 1915, a new version of the Ku Klux Klan, targeting blacks, Jews, Catholics and immigrants, was founded by William Joseph Simmons.

In 1947, movie studio executives meeting in New York agreed to blacklist the "Hollywood Ten" who'd been cited for contempt of Congress the day before.

In 1961, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Enterprise, was commissioned.

In 1963, the body of President John F. Kennedy was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery; his widow, Jacqueline, lighted an "eternal flame" at the gravesite.

In 1980, Sugar Ray Leonard regained the World Boxing Council welterweight championship when Roberto Duran abruptly quit in the eighth round at the Louisiana Superdome.

In 1999, Elian Gonzalez, a 5-year-old Cuban boy, was rescued by a pair of sport fishermen off the coast of Florida, setting off an international custody battle.

In 2001, as the war in Afghanistan entered its eighth week, CIA officer Johnny "Mike" Spann was killed during a prison uprising in Mazar-e-Sharif, becoming America's first combat casualty of the conflict.

In 2002, President George W. Bush signed legislation creating the Department of Homeland Security, and appointed Tom Ridge to be its head.

In 2008, former NFL quarterback Michael Vick pleaded guilty to a Virginia dogfighting charge, receiving a three-year suspended sentence.

In 2016, Fidel Castro, who led his rebels to victorious revolution in 1959, embraced Soviet-style communism and defied the power of 10 U.S. presidents during his half-century of rule in Cuba, died at age 90.

Ten years ago: Toyota said it would replace the gas pedals on 4 million vehicles in the United States because the pedals could get stuck in the floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

Five years ago: Attorneys for Michael Brown's family vowed to push for federal charges against the Ferguson, Missouri, police officer who killed the unarmed 18-year-old, a day after a grand jury declined to indict Darren Wilson. (The Justice Department later declined to prosecute Wilson.) President Barack Obama sharply rebuked protesters for racially charged violence in Ferguson, saying there was no excuse for burning buildings, torching cars and destroying other property.

One year ago: U.S. border agents fired tear gas on hundreds of migrants protesting near the border with Mexico after some of them tried to get through the fencing and wire separating the two countries; U.S. authorities temporarily shut down the border crossing from Tijuana, Mexico, where thousands were waiting to apply for asylum. The nation's deadliest wildfire in a century was declared fully contained after burning for more than two weeks; it had killed 85 people and destroyed thousands of homes in and around the Northern California town of Paradise.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Murray Schisgal is 93. Actress Kathryn Crosby is 86. Actor Christopher Riordan is 82. Pro Football Hall of Fame coach Joe Gibbs is 79. Singer Bob Lind is 77. Author, actor and economist Ben Stein is 75. Actor John Larroquette is 72. Actor Tracey Walter is 72. Movie director Jonathan Kaplan is 72. Author Charlaine Harris is 68. Retired MLB All-Star Bucky Dent is 68. Dance judge Bruno Tonioli (TV: "Dancing with the Stars") is 64. Singer Amy Grant is 59. Former NFL quarterback Bernie Kosar is 56. Rock musician Eric Grossman (K's Choice) is 55. Rock singer Mark Lanegan is 55. Rock singer-musician Tim Armstrong is 54. Actor Steve Harris is 54. Actor Billy Burke is 53. Singer Stacy Lattisaw is 53. Rock musician Rodney Sheppard (Sugar Ray) is 53. Rapper-producer Erick Sermon is 51. Actress Jill Hennessy is 50. Actress Christina Applegate is 48. Actor Eddie Steeples is 46. Actress Kristian Nairn is 44. Former NFL quarterback Donovan McNabb is 43. Actress Jill Flint is 42. Actor Jerry Ferrara is 40. Actor Joel Kinnaman is 40. Actress Valerie Azlynn is 39. Former first daughter Barbara Pierce Bush is 38. Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager is 38. Actress Katie Cassidy is 33. Contemporary Christian singer Jamie Grace is 28.

Thought for Today: "There's no one so intolerable or less tolerated in society than someone who's intolerant." [-] Giacomo Leopardi, Italian author and poet (1798-1837).

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.



Paul Stevens
Editor, Connecting newsletter
paulstevens46@gmail.com

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