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Connecting - December 13, 2019

1 message

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Connecting

December 13, 2019

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 13th day of December 2019,

Did you ever leave the AP for another job and then return?

Connecting colleague **Joe McGowan** writes, "I have been intrigued by all the AP people and former AP people who came and went from the AP payroll. I didn't even

remember that **Walter Mears** had left the AP and then returned. As you know, I stayed through 42 ½ years. I wonder if any of the folks would explain why they left, and if any of them would explain why they came back to AP."

Sounds like an interesting story idea to me. Come ahead with your own story, if this applies to you.

Meantime, we lead today's issue with a spot of holiday cheer - from the typewriter - yes, typewriter - of the late **Jules Loh**. And it moved to members on a Teletype printer. It's timeless.

Have a great weekend!

Paul

Connecting's holiday series:

Joy to `The World' (and `The Times' and `The News')

Chris Sullivan ([Email](#)) - Sadly, but necessarily, Connecting includes many items about the demise of America's newspapers, from individual shutterings to consolidations and resulting layoffs at major chains. That's reality today.

But it's the holiday season, and rather than let ourselves be brought down by this and other present-day realities, let's turn to literary journalism for a glimpse of a brighter time. Here's a bit of verse by the late **Jules Loh**, back when AP Newsfeatures was rightly known as "Poets' Corner." (I don't know what headline this went out under; just made one up myself.) (Click [here](#) to read Jules' obituary.)

As we read, let's not ask how many of the papers hailed here still publish. Instead, as the poem suggests, maybe we should just "lift now a cup of cheer."



Jules Loh

By Jules Loh

AP Special Correspondent

Let us raise a Christmas toast
To the Fargo Forum, Vicksburg Post,
The Times, the News, the Beloit Call,
America's papers, large and small;

To all who bring the news diurnal:
The Elkhart Truth, the Courier-Journal,
Rock Island Argus, joy! wassail!
And here's to the Charleston Daily Mail.

Sing to the season, sing and laugh!
Sing to the Bloomington Pantagraph.
Sing to the Coos Bay World, and bless
The Escanaba Daily Press.

Join the chorus, sing Noel
To the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Nonpareil.
Raise your voice and let us hear it
For the Punxsutawney Spirit.

Sing a carol, sing it gaily --
May angels bless the Millville Daily.
Sound a trumpet, ring a bell,
Joy to the Sitka Sentinel!

Lift ye now a cup of cheer
To the Bemidji Pioneer.
Quaff a special yuletide dram

For the Garden City Telegram.

Let no happiness be imperiled --
Hark the Waco Tribune-Herald!
Hail Gazette of Texarkana,
And Star of Muncie, Indiana!

Celebrate! Be not a spoiler;
Hail the Larned Tiller & Toiler,
And hail that journalistic tower,
The ever-current Norwalk Hour.

Betake yourself to a festive pub
And drink to the Kearney Daily Hub.
Shine on, San Antonio Light,
Shine Kansas City Star this night -

This night of wonder, night sublime,
Shine upon the Greenwich Time.
Shine Eagle-Beacon, Lowell Sun,
Reach every newsroom, leave out none:

The Hereford Brand, Tampa Tribune,
States-Item and Times-Picayune.
Deck the halls with garlands regal,
Salute the Enid Daily Eagle.

Hang the tinsel on the tree
With a happy thought for the Fresno Bee.
Reserve at least a brief hooray
For a colorful USA Today.

And ere this season's memories fade,
Forget not the Toledo Blade.
Forget not Port LaVaca's Wave
Or the Nugget of Nome... Oh yes, and save

A cheer for the Chieftain and, if you will,
Include the West Plains Daily Quill,
The Portland Oregonian,
The Lumberton Robesonian,

The News-Republic of Baraboo,
The daily Gazette of Kalamazoo,
The Boomerang of Laramie,
The Daily Journal of Kankakee,

The Journal Star, Peoria,
The Astorian of Astoria...
And hundreds more, from sea to sea,
God bless them every one! ... (AP).

A thank you to all our international reporting colleagues

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Articles relating to Afghanistan and the tragic A5 Baby Lift in this week's Connecting have renewed my awe of and respect for overseas reporting.

The danger and daring often involved in carrying out their assignments are frequently downplayed by the modest, matter-of-fact way in which they describe them.

The on-the-ground reports from overseas reporters, both in print, on air and photo, particularly in times of war and/or political upheaval, always have been my go-to places for accuracy and trust. Reports from Washington and other world capitals aren't necessarily always untrue, but, as in the Afghan case, often don't tell the whole story, especially from the street level.

These reports from around the globe not only give us a true reading of the events as they happen. They also form an important historical archive for the future.

To all our foreign reporting colleagues, for the work they have done and continue to do, thank you.

Three cheers for foreign correspondents

Aida Poladian Koundakjian: 1933-2019

Lola Koundakjian ([Email](#)) - It is with deep sorrow but also in deep gratitude for a wonderful life, that we inform you of Mum's death after very severe decline due to Alzheimer's. The family gathered this week for a private funeral in New York. Mum was a fun, happy, enlightened woman and I for one will remain forever grateful to have been her daughter.

Born in Beirut, Lebanon, to Setrak Poladian and Eugenie Keushkerian, both from Tokat and Genocide survivors, she was the eldest of three daughters. Aida attended Sourp Nishan and Nishan Palandjian Djemaran then Université Saint Joseph where she studied Armenian history and archeology.

Aida was loving, kind and intelligent, an equal partner to the man in her life, AP photojournalist Harry Koundakjian. They were married in 1955 and blessed with two children, Vicken and Lola. Their marriage lasted 59 years, until Harry's death in 2014.



In addition to her children, she is survived by her daughter-in-law, Paula Fedeski, and her sisters Sonia Ortchianian (Montreal) and Anahid Habeshian (Los Angeles), as well as nephews and nieces throughout North America.

Aida was active with the Hamazkayin Cultural Association and served as its co-director in Beirut. She taught English and Kindergarten in Beirut and Aleppo, and worked as a translator in New York. She loved traveling, the arts (museums and opera) and dark chocolate.

Kevin Hudson retires after 41-year AP career



A retirement party in AP's New York headquarters honored Kevin Hudson, who retires after 41 years with The Associated Press. The Global Procurement department is pictured, from left: Vince Lee - Procurement Specialist, Fred Savarese - Senior Technology Buyer, Kevin Hudson - retired former Director of Global Procurement, Susan Clark - Travel Coordinator, Jeremy Carmel - Vice President and Treasurer, Lori Greene - new Director of Global Procurement, Julia Arcese - Contracts Manager, and Mike Tolan - Senior Buyer.



From left: Ken Dale, CFO; Kevin Hudson, and Jeremy Carmel, Vice President and Treasurer.

Speaking of Speed Graphics

Malcolm Barr ([Email](#)) - Speaking of Speed Graphics, press cameras of yore, I never was or ever have described myself as a photographer, but early in my 70-year journalism career, as a 20-something covering Central Vancouver Island, British Columbia, for the Vancouver Daily Province, I was handed a camera and a small, black canvas bag by the staffer I was to replace. He said in addition to being paid by the word for my articles, I could make extra money taking photographs, \$5 for a mug shot (one column) and \$10 for any photo published that measured two columns or more. I



Crown Graphic

worked out of Nanaimo as a stringer for the Province while on the staff of the Nanaimo Daily Free Press, a Thomson newspaper. I was later to move to Vancouver, becoming a regular staff member of, I believe, Canada's second-largest morning newspaper. I was in my mid-20s.

Back to my camera story. The camera I was handed was a Crown Graphic, similar to the Speed Graphic except in size. The plates I used were, I believe, closer to 2 x 3 and handled film rather than glass plates. When necessary, I would carry the Crown Graphic and black bag with me on assignment. The problem with my photos was how to get the exposed film to head office across about 35 miles of open water. The black bag I've described had an opening at each end, enough for both hands to load and unload film in the darkness of the bag. To get my exposed film to the Province office, I walked to the ferry terminal at 5 p.m. and watched for a hopefully reliable traveler among the crowd boarding the ferry, handed him or her my film, now in a large brown envelope, addressed to the Province, and asked to please deliver this package to a taxi driver at the Vancouver terminal, to be delivered to the Province newsroom. Over a two-year period, not one of my "couriers" let me down.

Oh! for the good old days...maybe not!

Here's an idea for a holiday donation - the AP Emergency Relief Fund

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina swept through New Orleans and neighboring areas leaving a trail of destruction and chaos. As our local staffers provided round-the-clock coverage, many of them suffered - their homes destroyed or damaged and relatives rendered homeless. Hearing of their hardships, colleagues around the AP world asked how they could help.

Those heartfelt offers led to the establishment of The Associated Press Emergency Relief Fund, an independent 501(c)(3), which in the years since has provided quick cash relief to staffers and their families who have been adversely affected by conflict or natural disasters - beyond insurance or the assistance that AP offers.

In the decade since Katrina, the fund has distributed nearly 50 grants totaling over \$250,000 - all thanks to the generosity of fellow AP colleagues and others who revere AP.

The fund has helped rebuild houses for staffers in Myanmar after a devastating cyclone, repair and replace cars for staff in Baghdad whose vehicles were destroyed by bombs and provide rental assistance for several people in our New York

headquarters after Hurricane Sandy. In one instance, after the Taliban invaded a region of Afghanistan and threatened residents, the fund provided money for a staffer there to move his family to safety.

Donate via Paypal

In order to be ready to help the moment emergencies strike, the Fund relies on the generous and ongoing support of the extended AP community. Donations, which range from \$10 to \$100,000, and are tax deductible, can be made by check or credit card at any time throughout the year.

Donate by check

Within the U.S. and Canada, donations can be made by check, payable to AP Emergency Relief Fund; mail your check to AP Emergency Relief Fund, The Associated Press, 200 Liberty Street, NY, NY 10281, and be sure to include your name, address and contact information. (Donations outside of the U.S. and Canada should be made online by credit or debit card.)

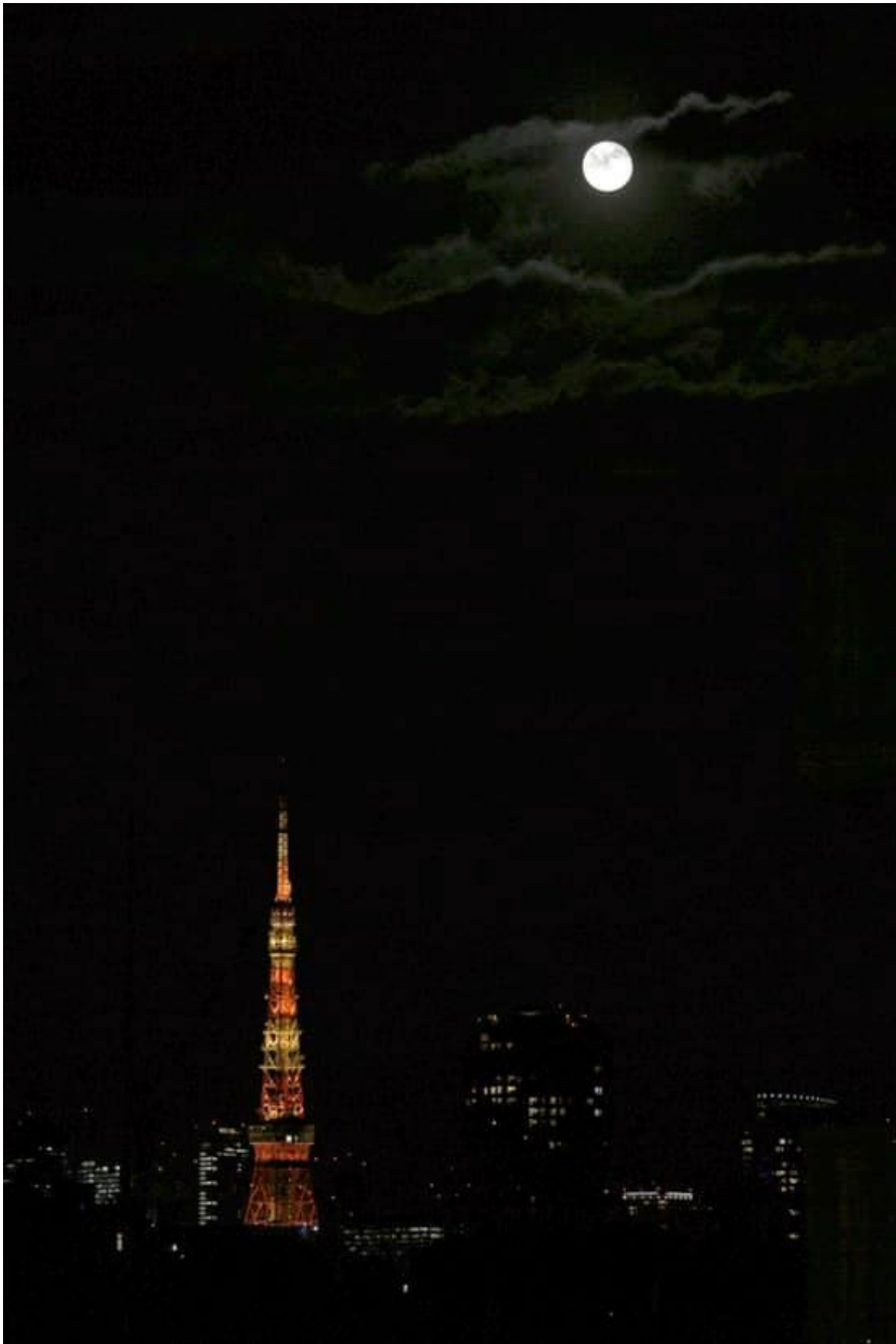
More on scholarships tied to AP employees

Cynthia Rawitch ([Email](#)) - Former AP/LA "newsman" Cynthia Rawitch and husband Bob Rawitch, a retired L.A. Times editor, have endowed a fund for the California State University, Northridge (CSUN) student newspaper. The more than 10-year-old endowment--now nearing \$50,000--is used by The Sundial to pay for special projects, as well as travel for story coverage, conference attendance and other needs not covered by the newspaper's budget. Cynthia was publisher of the newspaper for eight of the 42 years she worked at CSUN. She retired as vice provost of the university. Bob graduated from CSUN (then San Fernando Valley State College) in 1967 after serving as the paper's editor-in-chief.

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Brian Bland ([Email](#)) - The University of Illinois College of Media offers the Gerald Robert Bland scholarship in journalism on a yearly basis. It's named for my father, who died in 1968, long before I worked for AP. Although neither of my Chicago-born parents were able to attend college, nor were they journalists, they very much valued the two degrees (B.S., M.S) I earned at U of I in broadcast journalism and mass communications. Mom made a point of endowing a J-school scholarship in dad's name. The scholarship was created soon after her death in 2002 (by which time I'd been with the AP for 22 years).

Connecting sky shot - Tokyo



Kiichiro Sato - A view from our apartment... The full moon rises over Tokyo

Tower Thursday, Dec. 12, 2019, in Tokyo.

Adam Causey named Texas-based news editor

DALLAS (AP) - Adam Kealoha Causey, The Associated Press' administrative correspondent in Oklahoma, has been named news editor overseeing Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The appointment was announced Thursday by Tom Berman, the AP's news director for the Central region.



"Adam is a leader who inspires confidence in everyone he works with," Berman said. "Whether it's solving a logistical problem on the fly during a fast-breaking story or talking through an approach to an enterprise story, Adam brings a steadying calmness and thoughtfulness to every challenge."

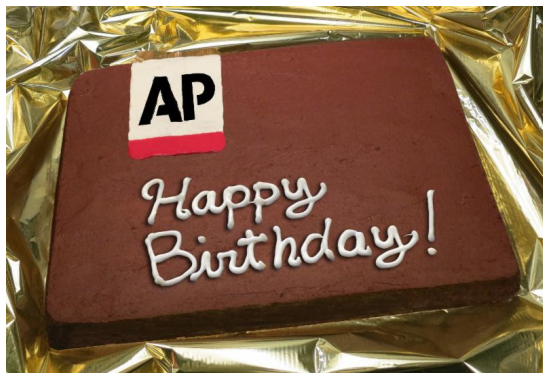
Named to the Oklahoma position in 2016, Causey has been serving as interim news editor for the three-state territory of Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma since July, when Kim Johnson Flodin was promoted to be the Central region's deputy news director/photos and newsgathering. In that time, he has helped drive coverage of the mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, and the case of Amber Guyger, a white former Dallas police officer convicted of murder for shooting a black neighbor in his own apartment.

Causey joined the AP in Phoenix in 2015 from the Las Vegas Review-Journal, where he was a reporter and an assistant city editor for breaking news and crime coverage. He's also worked as a projects reporter for the Florida Times-Union in Jacksonville and as a reporter for The Times in Shreveport. He is a graduate of Louisiana State University's Manship School of Mass Communication and a native of Doyline, Louisiana.

Causey, who is currently based in Oklahoma City, will move to Dallas early next year. His appointment is effective immediately.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



On Saturday to...

Glenn Adams - adamsgjrr1@gmail.com

Joan Mower - mower.joan@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

John Strachan - strachanjohna@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Study shows hostility toward journalists by Trump fans

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - It's been true for some time that Republicans are generally more hostile to the news media than Democrats, but a study released Thursday found that's much more the case for supporters of President Donald Trump.

The Pew Research Center study looks at viewpoints on the ethical standards of journalists and whether they act in the best interests of the public.

The study found that 17% of Republicans who somewhat approve of Trump's performance said they believe journalists have very low ethical standards, and 12% of "never-Trump" Republicans felt that way. However, 40% of Republicans who strongly approve of Trump agree that reporters have very low ethical standards. Another 45% answered low, leaving out the "very," the Pew study said.

Meanwhile, 4% of Democrats who cast themselves as strong opponents to the president said journalists have "very low" standards.

Twenty-three percent of Republicans who are lukewarm in their support of the president or oppose him say they have a lot of trust in national news organizations, but that number sinks to 9% among strong backers. The survey found 33% of Democrats who strongly oppose Trump also strongly believe in news organizations.

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

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John Solomon claims the First Amendment protects him as a journalist (Washington Post)

By Erik Wemple

Media critic

Six years ago, we learned that the Obama Justice Department had seized records from more than 20 phone lines belonging to the Associated Press. Journalists hopped on the nearest public platform to express their outrage. This was a "serious interference with A.P.'s constitutional rights to gather and report the news," argued the wire service in a statement.

Fast forward to early December, when we learned that phone records of John Solomon, a veteran Beltway journalist who departed the Hill in the fall, had surfaced in the House's "Trump-Ukraine Impeachment Report." In a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Monday evening, Solomon writes that House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rep. Adam B. Schiff (D-Calif.) "intruded on my First Amendment rights."

He further compares the incident to the early 2000s when he himself worked for the AP, and the Justice Department "obtained my home phone records and the FBI illegally seized my mail without a warrant in an effort to unmask my sources on federal corruption and stop publication of a story about the government's counterterrorism failures before 9/11."

Do we have an apples-to-apples situation here? Well, there's a common thread involving telephones. But that's about it.

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

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Fox News's Chris Wallace blasts Trump, again

(Washington Post)

By Erik Wemple

Media critic

Chris Wallace, host of the excellent "Fox News Sunday," didn't harm his reputation as a truth-teller with these words: "I believe President Trump is engaged in the most direct, sustained assault on freedom of the press in our history," said the host.

Did the Fox News host say those things on "America's Newsroom"? On "Special Report w/Bret Baier"?

No, he said those things at a speech at the soon-to-close Newseum in a forum titled, "Celebrating the First Amendment and the Newseum." It seems that Wallace has something of a template for such events. In accepting an award at a 2017 confab of the International Center for Journalists, Wallace riffed, "Let's start with a basic fact. President Trump is engaged in the most direct, sustained assault on a free press in our history. Since early in the campaign, he has done everything he can to delegitimize the media - attacking us institutionally and individually. And I think his purpose is clear: a concerted campaign to raise doubts that when we report critically about his administration - that we can be trusted."

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

Today in History - December 13, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Dec. 13, the 347th day of 2019. There are 18 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 13, 1981, authorities in Poland imposed martial law in a crackdown on the Solidarity labor movement. (Martial law formally ended in 1983.)

On this date:

In 1862, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside launched futile attacks against entrenched Confederate soldiers during the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg; the soundly defeated Northern troops withdrew two days later.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1937, the Chinese city of Nanjing fell to Japanese forces during the Sino-Japanese War; what followed was a massacre of war prisoners, soldiers and citizens. (China maintains that up to 300,000 people were killed; Japanese nationalists say the death toll was far lower, and some maintain the massacre never happened.)

In 1944, during World War II, the light cruiser USS Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack off Negros (NEH'-grohs) Island in the Philippines that claimed 133 lives.

In 1977, an Air Indiana Flight 216, a DC-3 carrying the University of Evansville basketball team on a flight to Nashville, crashed shortly after takeoff, killing all 29 people on board.

In 1989, the film "Driving Miss Daisy," starring Morgan Freeman and Jessica Tandy, was put into limited release by Warner Bros.

In 1993, the U-S Supreme Court ruled, five-to-four, that people were entitled to a hearing before real property linked to illegal drug sales could be seized.

In 1997, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held in Los Angeles for the 1 billion-dollar Getty Center, one of the largest arts centers in the United States.

In 2000, Republican George W. Bush claimed the presidency a day after the U.S. Supreme Court shut down further recounts of disputed ballots in Florida; Democrat Al Gore conceded, delivering a call for national unity.

In 2001, The Pentagon publicly released a captured videotape of Osama bin Laden in which the al-Qaida leader said the deaths and destruction achieved by the September 11 attacks exceeded his "most optimistic" expectations.

In 2002, Cardinal Bernard Law resigned as Boston archbishop because of the priest sex abuse scandal.

In 2003, Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit.

Ten years ago: The Senate passed, 57-35, a \$1.1 trillion spending bill with increased budgets for vast areas of the federal government, including health, education, law enforcement and veterans' programs. An attacker hurled a statuette at Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, striking him in the face and leaving the stunned 73-year-old leader with a broken nose and two broken teeth. (The attacker, Massimo Tartaglia, was later found unfit to stand trial.) Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Samuelson died in Belmont, Massachusetts, at age 94.

Five years ago: Thousands of protesters marched in New York, Washington and other U.S. cities to call attention to the killing of unarmed black men by white police officers who faced no criminal charges. Congress cleared a \$1.1 trillion spending bill for President Barack Obama's signature. Marcus Mariota won the Heisman Trophy, becoming the first Oregon player to earn the award. Bill Bonds, an iconic Detroit anchorman who'd also worked for ABC stations in New York and Los Angeles, died at age 82.

One year ago: Authorities confirmed that a 7-year-old girl who had crossed the U.S.-Mexico border with her father the previous week died after being taken into the custody of the U.S. Border Patrol; the girl had been flown to an El Paso hospital after she began having seizures. Bomb threats were emailed to hundreds of schools, businesses and government buildings across the country in what authorities said appeared to be a crude extortion attempt. The suspect in the shooting attack on a Christmas market in the French city of Strasbourg two days earlier was shot and killed by police. A Russian gun-rights activist, Maria Butina, admitted in a plea deal that she was a secret agent for the Kremlin who tried to infiltrate conservative U.S. political groups as Donald Trump rose to power. (Butina was deported the following October after serving a prison sentence.) Janet Jackson, Stevie Nix and Def Leppard were among those earning induction to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State George P. Shultz is 99. Actor-comedian Dick Van Dyke is 94. Actor Christopher Plummer is 90. Country singer Buck White is 89. Music/film producer Lou Adler is 86. Singer John Davidson is 78. Actress Kathy Garver (TV: "Family Affair") is 74. Singer Ted Nugent is 71. Rock musician Jeff "Skunk" Baxter is 71. Country musician Ron Getman is 71. Actor Robert Lindsay is 70. Country singer-musician Randy Owen is 70. Actress Wendie Malick is 69. Former Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is 69. Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke is 66. Country singer John Anderson is 65. Singer-songwriter Steve Forbert is 65. Singer-actor Morris Day is 63. Actor Steve Buscemi (boo-SEH'-mee) is 62. Actor Johnny Whitaker (TV: "Family Affair") is 60. Rock musician John Munson (Semisonic; Twilight Hours) is 57. Actress-reality TV star NeNe Leakes is 53. Actor-comedian Jamie Foxx is 52. Actress Lusia Strus is 52. Actor Bart Johnson is 49. Actor Jeffrey Pierce is 48. TV personality Debbie Matenopoulos is 45. Rock singer-musician Thomas Delonge is 44. Actor James Kyson Lee is 44. Actress Kimee Balmilero (TV: "Hawaii Five-0") is 40. Actress Chelsea Hertford is 38. Rock singer Amy Lee (Evanescence) is 38. Actor Michael Socha is 32. Neo-soul musician Wesley Watkins (Nathaniel Rateliff & the Night Sweats) is 32. Actor Marcel Spears (TV: "The Mayor") is 31. Singer Taylor Swift is 30. Actress Maisey Stella is 16.

**Thought for Today: "An orator without judgment is a horse without a bridle."
[-] Theophrastus, Greek philosopher (c.371 BC - c.287 BC).**

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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