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Connecting - December 19, 2019

1 message

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 19th day of December 2019,

History was made last night with the U.S. House voting to impeach President Donald Trump. You can view the latest AP stories and photos by clicking on the links - Top AP News and Top AP Photos - in Connecting's masthead. We bring you two of the top stories in today's issue,

Today's Connecting brings you another intriguing story from a colleague who took part in AP's coverage 30 years ago of the Romanian revolution.

Colleague **Dan Perry**'s fascinating account of those days, which led Wednesday's issue, is followed today by the experiences of **John Daniszewski**, who is AP Vice President and Editor at Large for Standards and former International Editor. He has reported from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, is a member of the board of the Pulitzer Prize and an advocate for the safety of journalists.

Today's issue also brings you more comments on Wirespeak, that language that those of us in the wire service business still have a hard time discarding.

Have a great day!

Paul

He considers the day he was shot and survived as his second birthday



AP Warsaw Bureau Chief John Daniszewski interviews Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa outside Episcopate building in Warsaw, March 1989. (AP Photo/Corporate Archives)

John Daniszewski ([Email](#)) - It is hard to comprehend that it is almost 30 years since the day I was shot and survived, the day - Dec. 23, 1989 - that I often refer to as my second birthday. Re-reading the story I wrote then (see link below) fills me once again with the sense of fear and dread I felt that night seeking a safe haven from the fighting and then the helplessness of being held prisoner expecting to be killed after I already had been wounded and dragged from my car.

I have had other moments of fear since ... running Sniper Alley during the siege of Sarajevo, diving into a gully during fighting in southern Lebanon, various dicey moments during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but nothing will ever be as acute

for me as Timisoara. It taught me about my vulnerability and about the utter unpredictability of life, and the gratitude with which one should embrace each new day.

To this day I am thankful that the AP moved mountains to evacuate me from Romania to Belgrade in Yugoslavia even as fighting continued, convincing a Red Cross convoy to go in to retrieve me and other wounded journalists. Steve Miller, Sloba Lekic, Dusan Stojanovich, Alison Smale and George Jahn were among those who rallied in a crisis. Lou Boccardi reached me by phone in the hospital in Belgrade. Nate Polowetzky and Frank Crepeau cheered me (and got me to write the piece.) And my wife and dearest friend Drusie Menaker was with me then and since.



John Daniszewski

Only last week, the AP honored two whose lives were given for the cooperative, local Chinese correspondent Y.C. Jao in Nanjing in 1951 and freelancer Mohamed Ben Khalifa in Tripoli in January. When I think of all the goodness I have experienced over the last three decades, and when I remember all those who paid the ultimate price, or those who suffered injuries far more grievous than mine, I am moved and humbled.

Thirty years after the miraculous year of 1989 when Communist governments fell one by one in central and eastern Europe, the region is far freer and the people living there know far more prosperity than before. But new, old shadows have crept back in - corruption, authoritarianism, nationalism, fascism. What looked at the time like a turning point in history has receded into something less than that. 1989 was merely the end of one chapter and the beginning of another, and the continuing history is being written now and covered by the next generation of AP folks in Europe and around the world.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Click [here](#) to read Daniszewski's first-hand account filed from his hospital bed in Belgrade, Serbia, that describes the hellish situation in Romania and his brush with death. It was first published on Dec. 26, 1989.

AP Analysis: Impeachment forever changes Trump's legacy



President Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at Kellogg Arena, Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, in Battle Creek, Mich. (AP Photo/ Evan Vucci)

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE**

NEW YORK (AP) - The first line of President Donald Trump's obituary has been written.

While Trump is all but certain to avoid removal from office, a portion of his legacy took shape Wednesday when he became just the third president in American history to be impeached by the U.S. House.

The two articles of impeachment approved along largely partisan lines on Wednesday stand as a constitutional rebuke that will stay with Trump even as he tries to trivialize their meaning and use them to power his reelection bid.

"It'll be impossible to look back at this presidency and not discuss impeachment. It is permanently tied to his record," said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University. "Trump now always becomes part of the conversation about misusing presidential power. Ukraine will be his Watergate. Ukraine will be his Lewinsky."

History books will add Trump to the section that features Bill Clinton, impeached 21 years ago for lying under oath about sex with White House intern Monica Lewinsky,

and Andrew Johnson, impeached 151 years ago for defying Congress on Reconstruction. Richard Nixon, who avoided impeachment by resigning during the Watergate investigation, is there, too.

Read more [here](#).

And, from around the country:

[Among public, a great divide at moment of Trump impeachment](#)

Wirespeak: A language hard to shake

Dan Elliott ([Email](#)) - Charles Richards' email (in Wednesday's Connecting) reminded me of my favorite Wirespeak story, which I heard third-hand (or maybe fourth- or fifth-hand), and although I cannot verify it, I can't resist retelling it over and over. It involves an overseas UPI correspondent who got fed up and cabled New York, "Upshove job assward."

-0-

Cynthia Rawitch ([Email](#)) - Once learned, Wirespeak stays with you forever. Having left The AP in 1972, I found myself using it around my university. Those who worked with me regularly got used to unknow, unfind, sappest, outapocket and poxhouse. I once left driving directions for one of my sons that began, "Take GO freeway..." He called me at work to find out which freeway he was supposed to take/go and I realized that not everyone knew that GO was shorthand for San Diego!

However, my favorite was an email I sent to another office in the university about 10 years ago for a project I was completing: "Need fat graf on issue sappest." Three days later (yes, three), one of the recipients called my administrative assistant asking whether I wanted a pie chart or bar graph and did I want it big?! We still laugh about it.

Thanks for the memory.

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Adolphe Bernotas (Email) - ROX for AP by UPI was reference to AP General Manager Melville Stone (rock) going back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, way before Rockefeller Center address.

More on Jules Loh's holiday ode to newspapers

John Lumpkin (Email) - Re the Jules Loh poem, he liked to get out of NYC to visit flyover country to speak to state meetings, so it's no surprise he did the year-end lyric that memorialized our members coast to coast. It makes me wonder if the inspiration might have been the country music tune sung by Hank Snow, Lynn Anderson and, most popularly, by Johnny Cash, "I've Been Everywhere, Man."

His poem and the C&W song are paeans to roving AP correspondents, bureau chiefs, technicians and broadcast executives of that era, for sure.

My matchup with Loh's list, of those I've visited, per your request:

Council Bluffs Nonpareil, Waco Tribune-Herald, Texarkana Gazette, Kearney Daily Hub, San Antonio Light, Kansas City Star, Hereford Brand, Tampa Tribune, New Orleans Times-Picayune, USA Today, Port Lavaca Wave, Lumberton Robesonian.

I think "Chieftain" refers to the daily in Pueblo CO. I graced the doors of the Perry Chief in Iowa. Loh mentions the News and the Times in the opening - given myopic tendency, that would be the two NYC papers.

I guess he couldn't find rhymes with Oskaloosa IA News, Tuscaloosa AL News, Paris (not France) TX News. And he missed the Centerville IA lowegian (no doubt a difficult if not impossible rhyme), the Herald-Coaster (a Texas duopoly serving two small markets), the New Braunfels TX Herald-Zeitung - try rhyming that one!

In Texas, I also liked the Bonham Favorite, though it took some time to convert them from UPI - maybe too late for Loh's deadline.

The Hereford Brand that Loh did highlight was/is in a very small market in the arid Texas Panhandle. I loved the semi-annual visits required for bureau chiefs by AP at the time because it meant lunch with the publisher, Speedy Neiman. He spoke softly with dour humor. Asked about his trip hundreds of miles eastward to attend a Texas Press Association officers meeting in the East Texas town of Athens in Texas' Piney Woods region, he said, "They've got a tree problem over there."

So, the real key to the list is not the newspaper names but the relationships invoked by his references to the editors, reporters, photographers, technicians and publishers who were as close as family to their AP counterparts.

New-member profile - Ron Lizik

Ron Lizik ([Email](#)) - I was raised in Chicago, following Chicago sports, Sox, Bears, Hawks and Bulls. Thank god for DirecTV.

My AP career started in late 1974 as a copy boy in Chicago, yes, that's what we were called. I was a summer intern photo editor in Chicago from May to August 1979, and hired full time September 1979. I transferred to Washington in 1980 and retired September 1, 2017.

I retired to Lake Chargoggamanchauggagoggchaubunagamauggin in Webster, Mass. My wife grew up in Hopedale, Mass., and has family here.

AP's Lisa Nicole Matthews elected VP

Club members elect Michael Freedman as 113th NPC president



National Press Club members elected Club officers and members of the board in voting that concluded Friday, Dec. 6. Back row (l-r): Mark Schoeff Jr. (board), Eileen Drage O'Reilly (membership secretary), Kimberly Adams (treasurer), Lisa Nicole Matthews (vice president), Herb Jackson (board), Gillian Rich (board). Front row (l-r): Menachem Wecker (board), Michael Freedman (president), Emily Wilkins (secretary).

By Pat Sherr

Members of the National Press Club elected Michael Freedman, journalist-in-residence at University of Maryland Global Campus and executive producer of The Kalb Report, to serve as their 113th president.

Freedman, who has worked for 35 years as broadcast journalist, network executive and teacher, will take office in January 2020. Freedman succeeds Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak, investigations editor for the Associated Press. The Club will hold an inaugural gala on Jan. 18.

Past President Jonathan Salant announced the election results Friday, Dec. 6 at the Reliable Source after one week of online voting and an evening of in-person voting.

Other officers elected Friday are Vice President Lisa Nicole Matthews of the Associated Press, Treasurer Kimberly Adams of Marketplace, Secretary Emily Wilkins of Bloomberg Government, and Membership Secretary Eileen Drage O'Reilly.

Read more [here](#).

In a staff note, **Derl McCrudden**, AP Deputy Managing Editor, Visual and Digital Journalism, wrote: "It would be wrong to let December pass without acknowledging a big deal in journalism: Lisa Matthews was this month voted Vice President of the National Press Club in Washington. Lisa will do this alongside her day job of assignment manager, helping run daily video newsgathering in the US.

The appointment starts in January and is deeply prestigious. It speaks to the huge respect that Lisa commands from her colleagues here at the AP, and in the wider industry. For those outside the US, the National Press Club advocates for journalism, and frequently hosts debates and news makers.

And for those who have never worked directly with Lisa, she is a mentor and a friend to many in the AP. There is no bigger advocate of sharp-elbowed, competitive journalism with a drive to win the big stories.

Please join me in wishing Lisa well with her role in the year ahead.

Sanders, AME for investing, is leaving US News

By CHRIS ROUSH, Talking Biz News

Patrick Sanders, the assistant managing editor for investing, of U.S. News & World Report, is leaving the publication.

His last day will be Dec. 20.

Sanders is joining a government IT company, Government CIO, which has a contract to upgrade the Department of Veteran Affairs' website. Sanders will be helping them keep the content jargon-free and easier for veterans to use.

Prior to joining U.S. News, Sanders was deputy managing editor of InvestorPlace.com. He has also been a managing editor for news websites in

southeast Europe and Turkey, worked as managing editor for the New York Times editing center and was Connecticut news editor for The Associated Press.

Read more here. Email for Patrick, a Connecting colleague - psandersipm@gmail.com

Newspapers in art - Naples





Kevin Walsh - Spotted in Piazza Cardinale, Naples, Italy

Top AP sports photos capture memorable moments of 2019



Tiger Woods reacts as he wins the Masters golf tournament April 14, 2019, in Augusta, Ga. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)

By The Associated Press

A flip, a fling and a fist pump that seemed lost forever.

Simone Biles, Kawhi Leonard and Tiger Woods took their best shot. So did ace photographers all over the world, capturing The Associated Press Sports Year in Pictures.

Megan Rapinoe, Tom Brady and the Washington Nationals, lasting images of finishing first. And then Maximum Security, from first to last.

From the sand of Dakar to the mud of Churchill Downs to green fields across the globe, pure competition and sheer exhilaration.

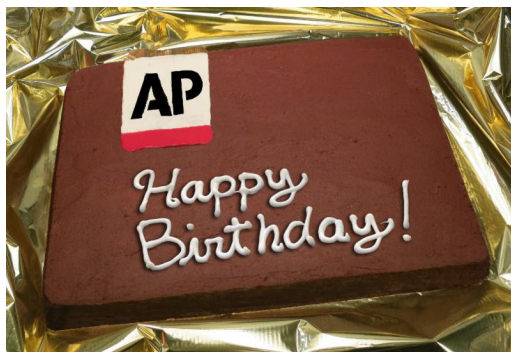
On the track in Europe, Lewis Hamilton racing to his sixth Formula One championship. Under a March Madness dome, deliberate Virginia outlasting Texas Tech in overtime for its first hoops title.

And on the dirt at Angel Stadium, a whole other side to sports. There, teammates of Tyler Skaggs gathered to place their jerseys on the mound to remember a pitcher gone too soon.

Be it the arena or ballpark, the course or court, 2019 served up memorable moments, there to be caught on camera.

Click [here](#) to view photos.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Sibby Christensen - sibbyc@msn.com

Stories of interest

Finland is winning the war on fake news. What it's learned may be crucial to Western democracy (CNN)

By Eliza Mackintosh, CNN

Video by Edward Kiernan, CNN

Helsinki, Finland (CNN) - On a recent afternoon in Helsinki, a group of students gathered to hear a lecture on a subject that is far from a staple in most community college curriculums.

Standing in front of the classroom at Espoo Adult Education Centre, Jussi Toivanen worked his way through his PowerPoint presentation. A slide titled "Have you been hit by the Russian troll army?" included a checklist of methods used to deceive readers on social media: image and video manipulations, half-truths, intimidation and false profiles.

Another slide, featuring a diagram of a Twitter profile page, explained how to identify bots: look for stock photos, assess the volume of posts per day, check for inconsistent translations and a lack of personal information.

The lesson wrapped with a popular "deepfake" - highly realistic manipulated video or audio - of Barack Obama to highlight the challenges of the information war ahead.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Jim Carlson.

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A journalist who broke the silence on rape in Japan won her court case (Quartz)

By Isabella Steger

A former TV news intern who became the face of the #MeToo movement in Japan after she went public with allegations of an assault by a senior male journalist won her civil court case in Tokyo today (Dec. 18), a rare victory in a country where public discussion of sexual assault remains extremely muted.

A court ordered Noriyuki Yamaguchi, a former Washington bureau chief for broadcaster TBS with close ties to prime minister Shinzo Abe, to pay ¥3.3 million (\$30,100) in damages to Shiori Ito, who had sought ¥11 million. According to Ito, Yamaguchi raped her in a hotel room in 2015 in Tokyo while she was unconscious, after they met for a drink to discuss Ito's career path.

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

-0-

Stop saying local news is dying (Poynter)

By KRISTEN HARE

We started 2019 with Gannett layoffs at local newspapers, we're ending 2019 with Gannett layoffs at local newspapers, and Ken Doctor's look at continued newspaper consolidation in 2020 is devastating.

It's quite the end to quite a decade.

News deserts, or places without news, have spread in the last 10 years, and they've most seriously hurt places that have poor and underserved populations, said the University of North Carolina's Penny Muse Abernathy, who has tracked news deserts. Less local news has also led to lower voter turnout and increased political polarization.

The business of local news is in trouble, Clara Henderickson wrote in a recent report for The Brookings Institution.

"This is a serious public problem; those who read, listen, and watch the news are not just consumers, but citizens that rely on news publishers to meet the demands of living in a democracy."

The headlines this year have been in agreement - local news is dying.

But those headlines are wrong.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - December 19, 2019



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 19, the 353rd day of 2019. There are 12 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 19, 1998, President Bill Clinton was impeached by the Republican-controlled House for perjury and obstruction of justice (he was subsequently acquitted by the Senate).

On this date:

In 1777, during the American Revolutionary War, Gen. George Washington led his army of about 11,000 men to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, to camp for the winter.

In 1946, war broke out in Indochina as troops under Ho Chi Minh launched widespread attacks against the French.

In 1950, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of the military forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

In 1960, fire broke out on the hangar deck of the nearly completed aircraft carrier USS Constellation at the New York Naval Shipyard; 50 civilian workers were killed.

In 1974, Nelson A. Rockefeller was sworn in as the 41st vice president of the United States in the U.S. Senate chamber by Chief Justice Warren Burger with President Gerald R. Ford looking on.

In 1975, John Paul Stevens was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1986, the Soviet Union announced it had freed dissident Andrei Sakharov (SAH'-kah-rahv) from internal exile, and pardoned his wife, Yelena Bonner. Lawrence E. Walsh was appointed independent counsel to investigate the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1997, James Cameron's epic film "Titanic" opened in U.S. theaters.

In 2001, the fires that had burned beneath the ruins of the World Trade Center in New York City for the previous three months were declared extinguished except for a few scattered hot spots.

In 2002, Secretary of State Colin Powell declared Iraq in "material breach" of a U.N. disarmament resolution.

In 2003, design plans were unveiled for the signature skyscraper [-] a 1,776-foot glass tower [-] at the site of the World Trade Center in New York City.

In 2008, citing imminent danger to the national economy, President George W. Bush ordered an emergency bailout of the U.S. auto industry.

Ten years ago: A U.N. climate conference in Copenhagen ended with a nonbinding accord to show for two weeks of debate and frustration; the deal was brokered by President Barack Obama, who attended the conference on its final day. A snowstorm paralyzed much of the eastern U.S. on the last holiday shopping weekend.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama said Sony Pictures Entertainment "made a mistake" in shelving "The Interview," a satirical film about a plot to assassinate North Korea's leader; Sony defended its decision, saying it had no choice but to cancel the

film's Christmas Day theatrical release because the country's top theater chains had pulled out in the face of threats.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that all 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria would be leaving that country, a move that sparked alarm and outrage from Republican lawmakers and prompted the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis; Trump explained the decision by declaring victory against the Islamic State group. The Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate for the fourth time in 2018 to reflect the economy's continued strength, but signaled that it expected to slow its rate hikes in 2019.

Today's Birthdays: Former game show contestant Herb Stempel is 93. Actress Elaine Joyce is 76. Actor Tim Reid is 75. Paleontologist Richard E. Leakey is 75. Musician John McEuen is 74. Singer Janie Fricke is 72. Jazz musician Lenny White is 70. Actor Mike Lookinland is 59. Actor Scott Cohen is 58. Actress Jennifer Beals is 56. Actor Robert MacNaughton is 53. Magician Criss Angel is 52. Rock musician Klaus Eichstadt (Ugly Kid Joe) is 52. Actor Ken Marino is 51. Actor Elvis Nolasco is 51. Rock musician Kevin Shepard is 51. Actor Derek Webster is 51. Actress Kristy Swanson is 50. Model Tyson Beckford is 49. Actress Amy Locane is 48. Pro Football Hall of Famer Warren Sapp is 47. Actress Rosa Blasi is 47. Actress Alyssa Milano is 47. Actress Tara Summers is 40. Actor Jake Gyllenhaal (JIH'-lihn-hahl) is 39. Actress Marla Sokoloff is 39. Rapper Lady Sovereign is 34. Journalist Ronan Farrow is 32. Actor Nik Dodani is 26.

Thought for Today: "He that jokes confesses." [-] Italian proverb.

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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