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# Connecting - January 15, 2020

1 message

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Wed, Jan 15, 2020 at 9:06 AM

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# Connecting

January 15, 2020

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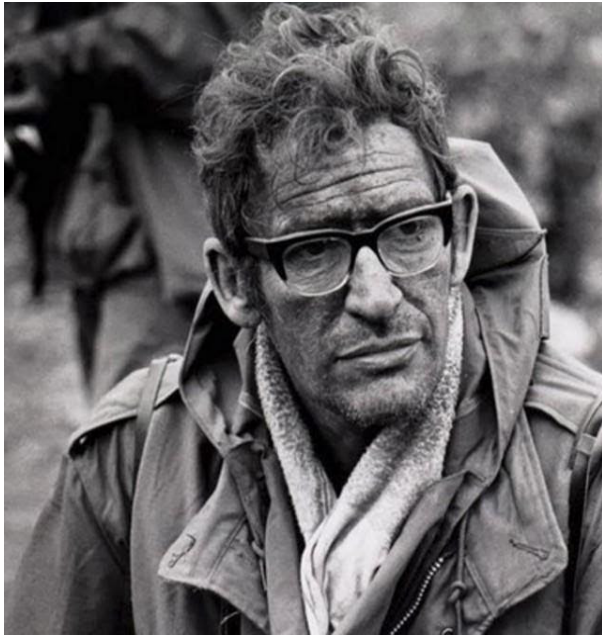
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# Gone, but not forgotten



**Larry Burrows**



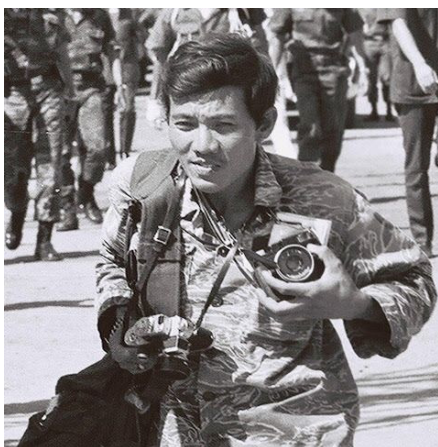
**Henri Huet**



**Kent Potter**



**Keisaburo Shimamoto**



**Sgt. Tu Vu**

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020,

It was a solemn occasion Tuesday morning at the building in downtown Washington that until two weeks ago was home to the Newseum, which closed Dec. 31.

Perhaps the most sacred contents of the Newseum were in a small stainless steel box containing the remains of four Vietnam War photographers and their companions when their helicopter was shot down over Laos in 1971. AP photographer **Henri Huet** was one of them.

Our Connecting colleague **Michael Putzel** was on hand for the transfer of the remains to the U.S. military and filed a report in words and photos of the brief ceremony. It leads today's Connecting.

Here's to a good day ahead!

Paul

**Remains of Vietnam War  
photographers removed from now-  
closed Newseum, returned to U.S.  
military custody**



**From left: Rick Mastroiani, Newseum director of research and library; Patty Rhule, Newseum director of exhibit development; Nick Gayliard, grandson of photographer Larry Burrows; Carrie Christoffersen, Newseum executive director; Stephan; Maeve Scott, Newseum registrar and collections director; Russell Burrows, son of Larry Burrows. Photo/Michael Putzel**





**Nick Gayliard, grandson of photographer Larry Burrows, photographs a plaque bearing his grandfather's name as one of those killed aboard the helicopter shot down in Laos on Feb. 10, 1971. Photo/Michael Putzel**

**By Michael Putzel ([Email](#))**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14 - The remains of four war photographers and their companions shot down in Laos during the Vietnam War were removed from the defunct Newseum here Tuesday and returned to U.S. military custody for safekeeping until a permanent resting place is found.

In an informal gathering that included the son and a grandson of famed LIFE magazine photographer Larry Burrows, who was killed in the helicopter crash on Feb. 10, 1971, the museum's registrar and collections director unscrewed a dedicatory plaque and removed a small stainless steel box from beneath the floor of the Journalists Memorial and delivered it to a military archaeologist for storage at a laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Neb.



**Maeve Scott (right), Newseum registrar and collections director, preparing to transfer box of remains to military archeologist Jesse Stephan (left). Photo/Michael Putzel.**

The civilian photographers, in addition to Burrows, were Henri Huet of The Associated Press, Keisaburo Shimamoto of Newsweek and Kent Potter of United Press International. A fifth person aboard, Sgt. Tu Vu, was a South Vietnamese combat photographer who served as a part-time "stringer" for AP. The South Vietnamese military helicopter also carried four crew members and two senior officers.

Carrie Christoffersen, executive director of the Newseum, oversaw the transfer and expressed gratitude for the service of the journalists who perished covering the war. Patty Rhule, who planned and directed exhibits at the Newseum, including the memorial to journalists killed doing their jobs, held a moment of silence observed by the small gathering of staff and observers.

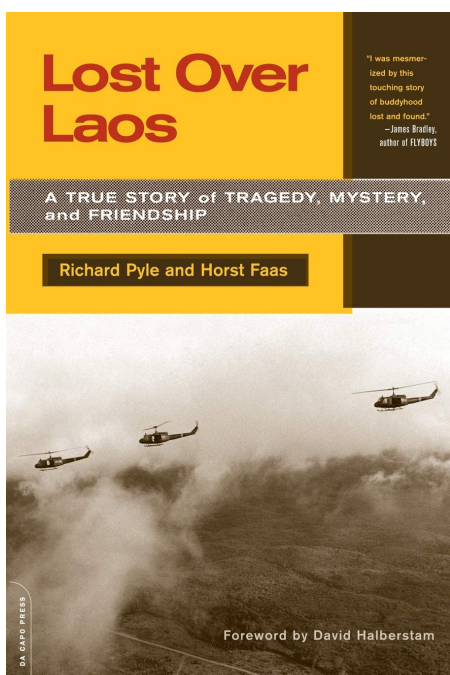
The Newseum, which attracted millions of visitors during its 11 years at the edge of the National Mall, struggled financially for most of that time and finally sold its strikingly modern building to Johns Hopkins University and closed its doors on Dec. 31. Some of its functions, including traveling exhibits, public events and online activities will continue under the auspices of its parent, the Freedom Forum.

Jesse Stephens, an archaeologist with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, said the box would be kept at the agency's lab at Offutt AFB that conducts continuing studies of remains from past wars in an attempt to identify and honor as



many as possible of those who died in service but whose bodies weren't recovered and buried at the time.

The trace remains of the journalists and South Vietnamese were recovered from the crash site 35 years after the Huey helicopter was shot down during an ill-fated invasion of Laos aimed at cutting the Communist North's Ho Chi Minh Trail. The search operation was conducted by the Defense Department's accounting agency, but military authorities chose not to bury the remains in a national cemetery because those killed were not U.S. military personnel. Instead, the pieces found at the site but unidentifiable as those of any individuals were comingled to represent the four civilian photographers, the army photographer and the officers and crew aboard the craft.



Richard Pyle, the Saigon chief of bureau for The Associated Press at the time of the crash, pursued the missing helicopter for decades and accompanied the expedition that located it. He proposed that the unfinished Newseum, devoted to the news and those who cover it, would be the most appropriate resting place for the small, rectangular container. It was given a place of honor in the new Journalists Memorial shortly before the Newseum opened to the public in April 2008. The story of the photographers, the search for the crash site and later search for a place to preserve the remains are recounted in *Lost Over Laos*, a book published in 2003 by Pyle and Horst Faas, the AP's Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer and photo editor. Both men have since died.

The memorial, which houses giant glass panels etched with the names of hundreds of lost journalists, will be disassembled, and its future is undecided. However, former Rep. David Dreier, chairman of Tribune Publishing Co., is spearheading an effort to build a permanent Fallen Journalists Memorial in Washington.

Barbara Cochran, who has held leadership posts in national newspaper and broadcast outlets for many years, is president of the foundation Dreier started. She said the group's immediate focus is winning passage of legislation to enable the foundation to work with the National Park Service to identify a location and begin design and permitting work for a privately financed memorial. The process is expected to take several years.

Although no decisions have been made, she said the foundation is open to discussion of designating the prospective memorial as a permanent site for the remains recovered from the Laos crash site.

*(Michael Putzel was an AP war correspondent in Vietnam and covered the shutdown of the photographers' aircraft. A photo he took of the crash site the next day was used decades later to identify the site where the remains were discovered.)*

## Greg Halling's essay on the loss of his Ulla resonates with readers



Chloe with Ellen Carlson

**Jim Carlson** ([Email](#)) - From a fellow dog lover, I thank Greg Halling for his essay in Tuesday's Connecting.

I thought you might like to hear a song I wrote the last time we lost one of our poodles. It's called Time to Go, and it's written about all those beautiful instincts our pets have that keep us going.



Chloe died in February 2011, a few months before she would have turned 16. She had developed a large tumor over the final couple months and was withering away when she showed us we had to act.

My wife Ellen and I were going to wait a while before considering getting another dog. But three weeks later, we brought Gigi home and she just turned 9.

Click [here](#) to listen.

-0-

**Scott Charton (Email)** - Thank you for sharing the story of Greg and Ulla. I know that room, that blanket on the floor, that kind vet from my own experiences with three dogs in transition in recent years. And holding them after for a long time but finally letting go and knowing the decision was best. The love and memories are always with us. What did we do to deserve dogs?

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**Jim Willis (Email)** - If love had been the deciding factor in her health and longevity, Ulla would have lived forever. Condolences to Greg Halling on the loss of his faithful companion. Those of us who have been through the same experience can relate to his heartfelt words. He did it the right way. The only thing worse than putting down a dog who has shared its life with you is failing to act when the time has come.

## Connecting mailbox

### *He has his own Imelda Marcos story*

**Harry Moskos (Email)** - I enjoyed the story on Arnold Zeitlin (in Monday's Connecting). I have my own Imelda Marcos story. No, I did not dance with her but appreciate her comment.

While bureau chief (1963-1969) in Honolulu, Imelda and her husband made several trips through Honolulu.

On one occasion I was covering a reception the governor (John A. Burns) had for her at the official residence. I stood behind them taking notes on various things they were talking about. Then a man appeared to my left and said, "I'm from the State Department and who are you?" I replied I was with the Associated Press and he then said that I had to leave. I responded that the governor had invited me and if he asks me to leave I would.

At this point, Imelda turned around and asked, "What is the problem here?" When I answered her question, she turned to the State Department representative and said, "The Associated Press stays."

I stayed. He left.

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## ***Awaiting with trepidation for a radio broadcast of the Times' Page One stories***

**Tom Kent (Email)** - All the discussion in "Connecting" of the excitement of getting a story in the New York Times reminds me of the pressure we were under to have had everything the Times did. When I was international editor, my great concern was any international story that the Times put on page 1. Had we had it already, or would a frantic chase have to begin?

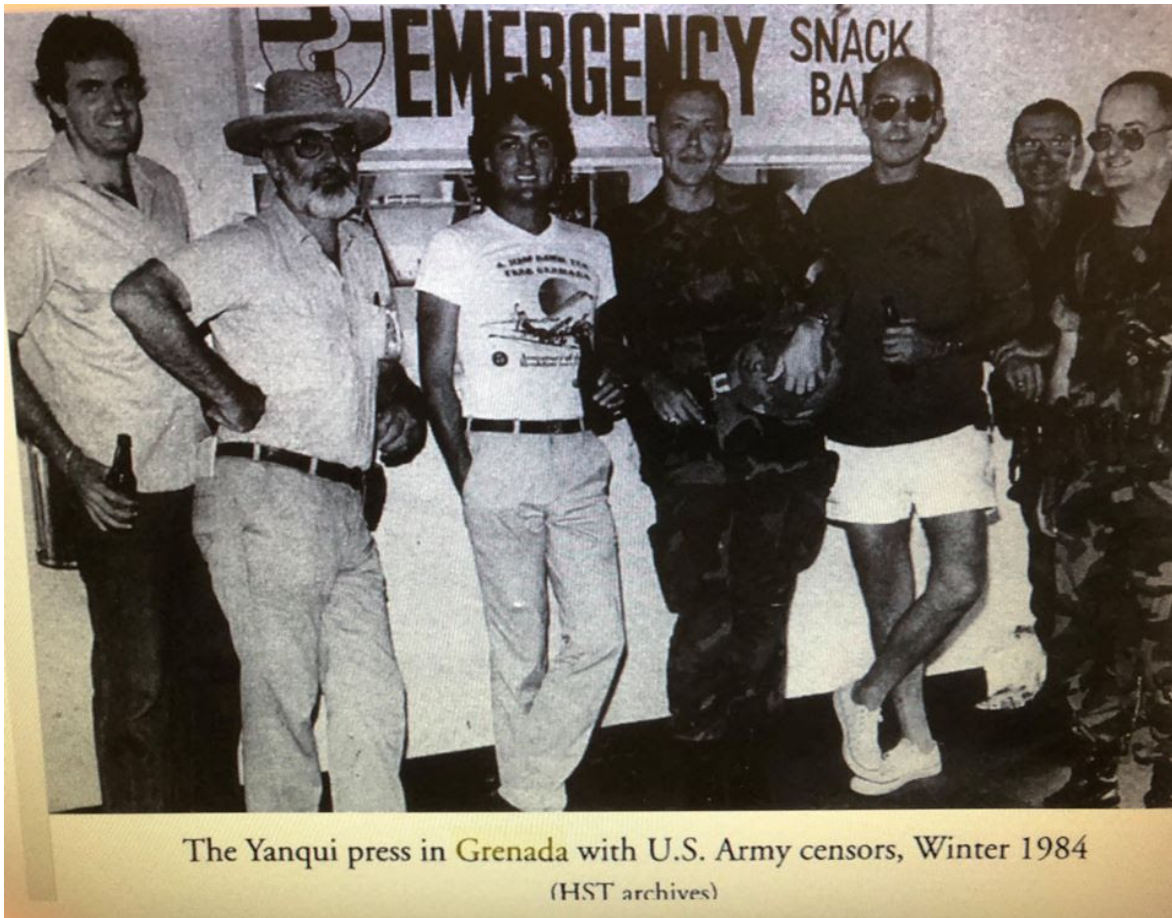
This was all before the internet, so the earliest way to know what the Times would put on the front page was to listen each night at 9 p.m. to "The Front Page of Tomorrow's New York Times" on WQXR, then the Times' radio station in New York. I listened nightly with much trepidation.

The program started with a set of chimes, which I interpreted as a potential death knell. Then the announcer solemnly intoned, in words burned into my memory, "In a few hours the first edition of The New York Times will be on the streets. Here are the stories the editors have chosen for the front page."

As I listened each night, I had the unsettling thought that if we were missing something important, there was a prospect of my being on the streets, too.

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## ***A farewell to Bernie Diederich - fearless, larger-than-life journalist***



**Bernie Diederich (in hat, hand on hip) in Grenada photo in one of Hunter Thompson's books.**

**Dan Sewell** ([Email](#)) - R.I.P., Bernie Diederich, who passed away at age 93 in Haiti. He was a fearless, larger-than-life journalist who reported from the Americas for five decades, beginning as an AP stringer in Haiti before becoming Time magazine's correspondent. He covered the tumultuous '60s in the region in the aftermath of Castro's Cuban revolution, the brutal Duvalier family regime in Haiti, and the Caribbean in the '80s, when President Reagan was determined to turn back increasing Soviet-Cuban influence in the region.

I got to know him well during that era, highlighted by the U.S. invasion of Grenada after a bloody coup. Bernie was credited with helping Marines recover one of their bodies from a beach and going up to the prison to let our Grenadian journalist friend Alister Hughes and others know it was safe to leave because the guards had fled



after a U.S. helicopter assault (in days to come, people on the island would say Bernie had retrieved the Marine's body from the beach under fire and that he single-handedly freed Hughes and the political prisoners. Close enough).

The New Zealand native was a living history of the region, a tireless reporter and prolific writer, and a lot of fun to be around (just don't be at the end of his acerbic wit!). By my last reporting trip to the region several years later, he, The Miami Herald's great Don Bohning, and the LA Times veteran Don Schanche had been dubbed "the Sunshine Boys." I hope the three are lifting a glass together again tonight and sharing their many stories.

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## ***Kidnapped by Columbus available on Audible***

Connecting college Marc Wilson's novel, *Kidnapped by Columbus*, is now available on Audible.

Click [here](#) to here to hear a free sample. Marc says anyone interested in learning how to publish on Audible is welcome to email him at [marcus@townnews.com](mailto:marcus@townnews.com)

*Kidnapped by Columbus* is an historically accurate novel that tells the story of six Native Americans - "Indians" -- who were kidnapped by Christopher Columbus and taken to Spain in 1493 to prove that he'd reached India. The book was published in print by Floricanto Press. Marc is finishing a sequel, *The Last First Indian*, which is the story of the enslavement - and annihilation - of the natives of Hispaniola. The third book in his trilogy will be called *Columbus in Chains*, the story of Columbus being arrested, placed in chains and shipped to Spain for trial.

Marc is the author of *Hero Street U.S.A.*, published in 2009 by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book is the inspiration for a nine-part documentary series currently being produced by Fourth Wall Films. Three parts have been completed.

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## ***AP sighting - Florence, Italy***



**Robert Meyers** ([Email](#)) - In the Via Della Condotta close to the house of Dante and not far from the Duomo, a 1980s analogue print transmitter and brass plate in the window of a shop selling black and white prints.

## AP on-the-job candids



Video journalist Sam McNeil covers wildfires near Tomerong, Australia, Jan. 8, 2020. (AP Photo/Rick Rycroft)





Video journalist Krysta Fauria, center, shoots Democratic presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg during a visit to a homeless shelter in the Watts neighborhood of Los Angeles, Jan. 10, 2020. (AP Photo/Richard Vogel)



Photographer Rahmat Gul, right, takes pictures of Afghan commandos during a graduation ceremony on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, Jan. 13, 2020. (Photo by Rahmat Alizada)

# Stories of interest

## ***The Iowa Reporter in the Middle of the 2020 Action*** (New York Times)



**Brianne Pfannenstiel, chief political correspondent of The Des Moines**

## Register. Photo/Ting Shen for The New York Times

**By Marc Tracy**

DES MOINES - Like many people in Iowa, Brianne Pfannenstiel has had campaign volunteers knocking on her front door. Unlike her neighbors, she must turn them away.

That is because Ms. Pfannenstiel, 31, has a unique job: chief politics reporter at The Des Moines Register, the biggest newspaper in a state whose first-in-the-nation nominating contests give it an outsize role in picking presidents.

She was once the self-described "weird kid" who, growing up in Lawrence, Kan., always wanted to be a journalist. Now, along with covering the candidates, Ms. Pfannenstiel has been selected as a moderator of Tuesday's Democratic presidential debate, a prime-time production hosted by CNN and The Register. The first such forum of the election year will give millions of viewers a last long look at the contenders before the Iowa caucuses on Feb. 3.

In a state filled with handshaking candidates, their minions and local supporters, Ms. Pfannenstiel finds herself in the thick of the campaign even when she's not reporting.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Dublin Teen Uses URL Sleuthing Trick To Scoop CNN's Iowa Poll*** (5,KPIX)

DUBLIN, Calif. (KPIX 5) - A Bay Area high school student has shaken up the political world with an online trick on the national political media.

"The media, I think, has a lot of issues," says Arjav Rawal. "The CNN part of it, um, you know."



That is where this all starts. Rawal is a Dublin High School senior. He's also the vice-chair of the California High School Democrats. He is not a fan of CNN.

ALSO READ: Sheriff's Office Moving Forward With Eviction Of Homeless Oakland Mothers

"I know I've said the phrase 'vendetta against CNN,'" Rawal recounts of his previous interviews on the subject. "In general, I think there's a lot of issues with the media."

From that frustration, he has been having a little fun at the network's expense.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

## Today in History - January 15, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2020. There are 351 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

**On this date:**

In 1559, England's Queen Elizabeth I was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1865, as the Civil War neared its end, Union forces captured Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, depriving the Confederates of their last major seaport.

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1919, in Boston, a tank containing an estimated 2.3 million gallons of molasses burst, sending the dark syrup coursing through the city's North End, killing 21 people.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1967, the Green Bay Packers of the National Football League defeated the Kansas City Chiefs of the American Football League 35-10 in the first AFL-NFL World Championship Game, retroactively known as Super Bowl I.

In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.

In 1976, Sara Jane Moore was sentenced to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford in San Francisco. (Moore was released on the last day of 2007.)

In 1987, entertainer Ray Bolger, perhaps best known for playing the Scarecrow in the 1939 MGM musical "The Wizard of Oz," died in Los Angeles at age 83.

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2014, a highly critical and bipartisan Senate report declared that the deadly Sept. 2012 assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, could have been prevented; the report spread blame among the State Department, the military and U.S. intelligence.

Ten years ago: United Nations humanitarian chief John Holmes appealed for more than \$560 million to help 3 million victims of the earthquake in Haiti, calling it "a huge and a horrifying catastrophe." Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas pleaded guilty to carrying a pistol without a license in the District of Columbia, a felony. (Arenas was later sentenced to a month in a halfway house and suspended until the end of the season by the NBA.)

Five years ago: In its first lethal injection since a botched one the previous spring, Oklahoma executed a convicted killer with a three-drug method. Police in Belgium conducted raids across the country, killing two suspected Islamist militants. Pope Francis arrived in the Philippines, Asia's most populous Catholic nation, where ecstatic crowds awaited the first papal visit in 20 years.

One year ago: Musical comedy star Carol Channing - best known to Broadway audiences for her role in "Hello, Dolly!" - died in California at the age of 97. New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand entered the growing field of 2020 Democratic presidential contenders, telling "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on CBS that she was launching an exploratory committee. Extremists launched an attack on a luxury hotel complex in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi; the attack took the lives of 20 civilians, one police officer and five attackers from the group al-Shabab, based in neighboring Somalia. At a Senate confirmation hearing, President Donald Trump's nominee to be attorney general, William Barr, said he believed that Russia had tried to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, and that the special counsel investigation was not a witch hunt.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Margaret O'Brien is 82. Actress Andrea Martin is 73. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 67. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 63. Rock musician Adam Jones (Tool) is 55. Actor James Nesbitt is 55. Actor Chad Lowe is 52. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka Bonnie Prince Billy) is 50. Actress Regina King is 49. Actor Eddie Cahill is 42. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 41. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 39. Actor Victor Rasuk is 35. Actress Jessy Schram is 34. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 32. Actress/singer Dove Cameron is 24. Singer-songwriter Grace VanderWaal (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 16.

**Thought for Today: "A nation or civilization that continues to produce soft-minded men purchases its own spiritual death on the installment plan." [-] Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968).**



# 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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