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Connecting - January 20, 2020

1 message

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Mon, Jan 20, 2020 at 8:50 AM

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Connecting

January 20, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 20th day of January 2020,

(1-20-2020 - a once in a century happening? - until 1-30-3030!)

Our colleague **Sandy Johnson** is the subject of today's Monday Profile - covering the great career of the native South Dakotan through work that included 10 years as

AP's Washington bureau chief, and as president and COO for the past six years of the National Press Foundation.

Under her direction as Washington CoB, AP refused to call the 2000 presidential race for George W. Bush despite enormous pressure after the television networks made the erroneous projection.

Today is Martin Luther King Day, celebrated as a national holiday, and our colleague **Gene Herrick** shares his thoughts on the Civil Rights leader whom Gene covered as an AP photographer.

Have you ever taught a journalism class? Longtime journalist **Rudy Keller** embarks on doing so Tuesday at the University of Missouri School of Journalism and he writes about his new adventure in [this piece](#) published in the Columbia Daily Tribune. "Some 35 years after I took my first journalism writing course," he wrote, "I will be a lab instructor for the current version of the class at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. I will have 17 eager students, some with dreams of a Pulitzer Prize and others who may see themselves as the person behind the podium at a White House news briefing."

How about you? Share your own experiences as a teacher, either in a full-time or part-time role. A friend who is a journalism school dean once told me that she's found that there are some professionals who enter teaching with the thought that they can carry a class with war stories of their days at a newspaper or broadcast station. Au contraire, she notes they quickly learn.

Finally, a reminder to former AP journalists that judges are being sought for AP state contests. "It's not hard duty," says colleague **Patti Baker**. "It involves reading, watching some good TV and listening to great radio journalism and making your selections online. In exchange, we would give every judge who takes an assignment (and completes it by the deadline) free access to the online AP Stylebook for a year! It's easy to use, updated frequently and best of all -- searchable! We'll take care not to overload you with entries." If you're interested, contact Patti at pbaker@ap.org

Have a great week!

Paul

Monday Profile

Sandy Johnson



Sandy and husband Chuck Raasch, sunset in Hawaii last month.

What are you doing these days?

In the end zone of my last gig, president and COO of the National Press Foundation. Retirement target: March 6.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

My journalism school dean, Dick Lee, was pals with Joe Dill, then Minneapolis bureau chief of AP. Dick got me an interview with Joe, who hired me as part-timer in Bismarck, N.D. I started in August 1978. First days were overwhelming, of course, because AP essentially threw you in the deep end and expected you to swim. Fast.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?

From Bismarck, I was transferred to Sioux Falls, S.D., where I was promoted to correspondent. In 1983, I was transferred to Washington, D.C., where I spent the rest of my AP career as a reporter, political editor, news editor, deputy bureau chief and then chief of bureau from 1998-2008. Government coverage and politics were the mainstays of my career.



First day at AP, 1978

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Too many to count, but Larry McDermott, Jon Wolman, Jim Donna, Lou Boccardi all taught me important skills in newsgathering and management. At the colleague level, Carole Feldman, Dave Espo and Terry Hunt were indispensable.

What were the most significant stories during your career? Describe your role.

Gosh, too many to count. Directing coverage of Clinton impeachment, the presidential election of 2000, 9/11, wars, terrorist attacks, election nights from 1988 to 2008. My only real claim to fame is being a Pulitzer Prize finalist for the 2000 presidential election no-call, which was a team effort. My best memories of AP are those team efforts. The proverbial all-hands-on-deck.



The 1984 political desk in Washington: (from left) Bill Welch, Sandy Johnson, Jerry Estill, Jon Wolman, Carole Feldman and Bob Furlow. Bob and Carole are still working elections for AP.



At a political convention

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?

AP was very good to me, and my only regrets are not seizing every international opportunity that came my way. Kids took priority over globe-trotting.

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Gardening, hiking, travel, reading.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

South Africa with my husband and sons in 2015. Close second: Cuba, with my husband, sons and their girlfriends in 2018.

Names of your family members and what they do?

Chuck (Raasch) had a 30-year reporting career with USA Today, took a buyout and finished his career as Washington correspondent with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch. Son Samuel is a sustainability officer for the Inova Hospital Network and son William founded a health care startup based in Los Angeles.

P.S. I'd like to thank Paul Stevens and his proxies for "Connecting" which is a bright spot in my mornings.

Martin Luther King Jr. - 'His memories live on'



AP Photo/Gene Herrick

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Time does fly, and suddenly the memories of the beginning and the ending of the historic life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. come flooding back on this anniversary of the day the nation has set aside to honor the man and his birthday. He was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia.

It was 62 years ago in 1956 when the powerful and demanding voice of a black preacher echoed from the pulpit of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. That voice was a blowback to the years and years of mistreatment of black people in the South, and especially, then, about the removal of a black lady from a city bus in Montgomery.

As an Associated Press photographer, working out of the Memphis, Tennessee bureau, I covered both of these events which were a major part of the beginning of the Civil Rights Movement that spread quickly throughout this country, and really, to all parts of the world.

Ironically, I also covered Rev. King's assassination in Memphis in 1968.

Memories of Rev. King, for me, usually center on his commanding voice and message. Veteran journalists have covered many good speakers, but King's sermons or speeches seem to vibrate the airwaves, and generally, leave the

audiences in awe, or raucously responding. The fiber of his voice was commanding. I remember shaking his hand.

I remember the picture I took of his wife, Coretta, kissing King on the cheek while among cheering supporters after he was leaving court in 1956. He was found guilty of conspiracy to boycott city buses in a campaign to desegregate the bus system. This picture has received a lot of recognition, as did the picture of Rosa Parks being fingerprinted following her arrest for not moving from the white section of a city bus to the area reserved for black people.

Those days of covering King giving speeches and sermons in his church are still memorable and frequently recalled because of the impact this man created such a legacy in the world in his battle for the freedom for black people who, for years, had suffered terrible indignities and slavery. His oratory voice seemed to shake the rafters of the relatively small church in Montgomery. The church was always jammed with parishioners and guests. This great voice went on to events around this country and the world. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. While in Montgomery, King stayed busy with his sermons, going to court, visiting with lawyers, and groups of regular citizens.

King, it is reported, was almost always fearful for his life, because he knew he was stepping on many customs or feelings of people who opposed his ever-gaining following. He had a scary time in Cicero, Illinois in the 1960's. In Memphis, on April 3, 1968, King delivered his famous speech, "I've Been To The Mountain Top." The next day, a sniper took King's life with a bullet to his throat while he was standing on the walkway of the Lorraine Motel on April 4, 1968.

AP photographer Charles Knoblock and I were immediately dispatched from Chicago to Memphis to cover this historic event. My outstanding memory of that event was standing in the flophouse bathtub where the killer had stood to assassinate King. There I had strange emotional feelings - on the one hand the very pleasant and moving coverage of Dr. King in the beginning, and now, the horrible shocking thoughts of his tragic death, and the silencing of one of the world's great voices. I stood in that bathtub, put my arms on the windowsill, where the assassin held his killing gun, and looked across the marrow space between buildings to the platform of the Lorraine Motel balcony. All of these years later, I still remember.

It is the commanding voice, and the commanding persona of a man fighting against all odds to change the world's behaviors, beliefs, and treatment of black people, minority groups, and those subverted by prejudice and hate, that my memory focuses on event even until this day. The memories range from the beginning 64 years ago, and the ending 52 years ago.

In his last speech, in Memphis, on the evening of April 3, 1968, King delivered his last speech, "I Have a Dream", in which he said, "then I got into Memphis. And some began to say the threats, or talk about the threats that were out. What would happen to me from some of our sick white brothers?"

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountaintop.

"And I don't mind.

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land!

"And so I'm happy, tonight.

"I'm not worried about anything.

"I'm not fearing any man!

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!!!" he said in closing.

His memory lives on.

Connecting mailbox

Rethinking the photo term - 'shooting'

Steve Wolgast ([Email](#)) - About five or six years ago, I was introducing a panel of photographers to an audience in Manhattan, Kansas, who came to hear them talk about their careers around the county and around the world.

One of them had photographed for The Christian Science Monitor among many other publications, having covered all manner of world leaders.

In my introduction, full of boasts about his work, I said that he had "shot the pope and five presidents." The audience chuckled, nervously, and I realized how my phrase had come across. Smoothing things over, I explained that he had shot them only with his camera, which of course they knew. But it was a good lesson for me in choosing the right verb.

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Adventure in crossing the southern Andes

Kevin Noblet ([Email](#)) - I made the same crossing of the southern Andes by bus and boat that Joe McGowan refers to in Friday's Connecting. I went in 1988, when I was COB in Santiago, and I thought Connecting readers might enjoy hearing about it, as it included rough encounters with a horse and a masseuse.

First, the horse:

My wife, Joan, and my parents were on the trip, which began with an ascent of breathtaking switchback roads from Chile's coast. We overnighted at a lakeside mountain lodge and elected a morning trail ride.

I'd had little riding experience and I think my big mount knew it. He quickly became fussy, and our guide instructed, "Tire de las riendas!"

The word "tirar" can mean either throw or pull. I picked the wrong one, loosened the reins and the horse tossed me high into the air and down flat on my back on the ground.

I got to my feet, dusted myself off and tried to remount the horse, but the guide insisted I be given a milder, smaller one. We made the ride and then continued our journey.

No real damage, except some bruises to my back and my pride.

Now the masseuse:

We eventually reached Bariloche, a lovely alpine town with many residents of German extraction. My back was stiff and hurting, and I thought I'd found a cure when I saw that our hotel advertised massages.

I made an appointment and was greeted by a tall, muscular masseuse. I forget her name but it was something like Helga, so I'll use that.

I explained my condition, stretched out on the table, and Helga began kneading my back and shoulders. Hard. The resulting pain was so intense I must have whimpered a little.

Helga raised one of her hands and slapped it across my back. "Que seas un hombre," she said. Be a man.

I stifled my crying. And I guess I did feel better when she was done.

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Antarctica - just beyond my reach

Lelieu Browne ([Email](#)) - My husband Malcolm Browne covered seven continents. Apart from South East Asia where he stayed in Vietnam for six years with AP and returned several times during the war to cover Cambodia, Laos and Thailand for the New York Times.

As foreign correspondent for the New York Times, he was assigned to other continents as bureau chief, except Antarctica.

Antarctica was something else. As science writer, he went to Antarctica five times and each time he felt more and more in love with the continent. At the end of his fifth visit, he was invited to spend six months by the scientists working there. He proposed me to go with him.

Despite my job as manager of the Refugee Employment Project at the International Rescue Committee, helping refugees from all over the world to get jobs to become self-sufficient, I was, without any hesitation, to consider taking leave of absence to spend six months in Antarctica, knowing full well that it would be dark and frigid and most of the time in door. Malcolm immediately submitted the permission for me to be with him.

We were heart-broken to be turned down because the strict rule there barred women and civilians at the research station because there were no quarters for

wives or visiting civilians to stay at that special station. Despite my encouragement for Malcolm to go alone, he did not want to be far from home for such a long period. He miserably turned down the invitation for himself.

As we retired in 2000, Linblad travel agency started organizing cruises to Antarctica, Malcolm was eager to show me that continent. We decided to enroll with Lindblad in 2004 although Malcolm was already diagnosed with Parkinson's. We put down the 50 per cent required deposit and looked forward to December of that year.

By summer, Malcolm slipped and broke his left arm in two places. Although the arm began to heal by the time we were ready to go, Malcolm found that it would be imprudent for him to venture out where we had to walk on slippery ice. We cancelled the trip and lost all our deposit.

After Malcolm died in 2012, Antarctica was no longer in my mind, until, one day, I caught eye on an ad in the New York Times about a special cruise to Antarctica organized by the very New York Times Company. It was different from other cruises because we would directly fly from Argentina or Chile to Antarctica, avoiding the crossing of the notorious and dangerous triangle ocean where shipwrecks and accidents are of hazards. Malcolm often told me that even him who could sustain turbulence at sea as well as on air was seasick.

I jumped to the occasion and enrolled for the trip in 2016. It was all booked up for single room. I even tried to get one of my family members to join me for a double cabin. No one was interested.

For three consecutive years, each time I determined to get there by advancing my booking three or four months ahead to be miserably defeated by other passengers who had long reserved the four single cabins. There is something that makes Antarctica beyond my reach.

Oh well! C'est la vie.

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Getting the attention of NY GEN

Joe Galu (Email) - Adolphe Bernotas talks about a familiar and annoying situation - where the General Desk would not accept good stories until they made TV network

news or were in the NYTimes. Then they wanted something they had rejected as much as a week earlier. Took a while for them to catch on to mercury in solid white tuna. I used to try to get clever with slug lines to try to get Kahlil's attention.

One little murder (and failed suicide) made the A-wire. I slugged it Inflation-Murder, because the man killed his wife saying he was afraid that inflation would render him unable to provide for his wife. Very sad. The last line was the man begging a neighbor to "Take care of Sparkie," his dog. Never forgot.

Made the IB, Cronkite and Paul Harvey too.

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Another TV wire service show

Jeff Rowe ([Email](#)) - Kolchak: The Night Stalker ran on ABC 1974-1975. The show was about a reporter (excellently played by Darrin McGavin) for a fictional Chicago wire service who week after week reported on bizarre/supernatural cases, often, as I recall, clashing with his gruff bureau chief boss, superbly played by Simon Oakland, who wanted McGavin/Carl Kolchak to report more on government and traditional news.

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Celebrating Vietnamese New Year



A celebration of the Vietnamese New Year on Saturday night at the home of Nam Hue Doan with fellow Vietnam War graduates (from left) Peter Arnett, AP; David Kennerly. UPI Saigon; and Nick Ut, AP. Nick reports, "We had a great dinner, and heard some beautiful music and singing."

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Meeting up at Press Club



Connecting colleagues Arnold Zeitlin (left) and Myron Belkind at the National Press Club annual general meeting last week. Said Arnold, "We see each other at the club when I come in on occasion from my suburban Virginian habitat (he lives in style at the Watergate in DC). Our AP lives go back almost 60 years. Myron is a former press club president. \"

Best of the Week

AP Manila team dominates all-formats Philippine volcano coverage



A family evacuates to a safer area amid ash from the Taal volcano in Tagaytay, Cavite province, southern Philippines, Jan. 13, 2020. The tiny volcano near the Philippine capital - drawing many tourists for its picturesque setting in a lake - belched steam, ash and rocks in a huge plume prompting thousands of residents to flee their homes.AP PHOTO / AARON FAVILA

Manila-based photographer Aaron Favila was about to drive his family to the new Star Wars movie on Sunday afternoon when he saw an alarming tweet: The Taal volcano in Tagaytay, just 35 miles (60 kilometers) from the Philippine capital, was spewing ash and threatening an eruption.

The movie would have to wait.

Favila alerted video journalist Bogie Calupitan and chief correspondent Jim Gomez, and immediately started making plans to head to the site, a 2 to 3-hour drive from Manila. He told his family to take his wife's car to the movie and he set out on the road, with Calupitan not far behind.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP reveals chronic problems, personal stories behind a deadly period in Mississippi prisons



Theresa Holliman, right, a sister of slain inmate Roosevelt Holliman, speaks beside her mother, Jeffrie Holliman, during an interview in Hattiesburg, Miss., Jan. 7, 2020, in an image from video. Jeffrie Holliman and two other mothers across Mississippi are planning funerals, wondering how and why their sons were killed in state prison. All three were slain by fellow inmates at Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman last week, along with two inmates killed in prisons elsewhere in the state, part of an outbreak of violence that's calling national attention to problems that have long existed in Mississippi's overstretched prison system. IMAGE FROM AP VIDEO / STACEY P. JENKINS

The Associated Press led the way with cross-format spot and enterprise coverage of recent prison unrest in Mississippi, bringing much-needed insight and context to a chaotic, evolving situation and giving voice to those affected by the deadly violence.

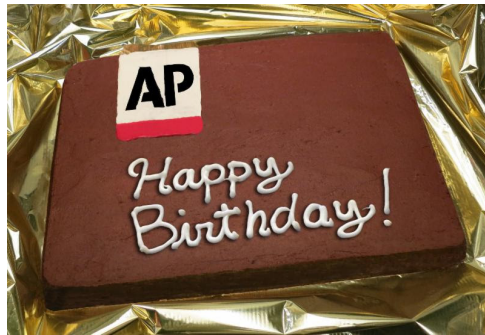
AP began chronicling rising violence across Mississippi's troubled prison system in late 2019, but it became clear after four deaths in four days that something bigger was going on.

AP was the first mainstream outlet to report that the violence revolved around a dispute between the Vice Lords and Gangster Disciples gangs, weaving in coverage of a Dec. 31 court ruling on prison conditions that many other outlets largely ignored or missed altogether.

Reporters Jeff Amy, Atlanta, and Emily Wagster Pettus, Jackson, Mississippi, quickly put together a deeper dive into the history of underfunding and other problems in the prison system. Officials were saying little in the midst of the crisis, but Amy knew they filed documents each year with legislative budget officials that contained key measures of prison performance. Those documents showed three state-run prisons were staffing only half their guard posts on a routine basis, and also described the ramshackle state of a cell block at the notorious Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Merrill Hartson - jrdhartson@peoplepc.com

Stories of interest

National Archives says 'wrong' to blur anti-Trump signs

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) - The National Archives said Saturday it made a mistake when it blurred images of anti-Trump signs used in an exhibit on women's suffrage.

The independent agency is charged with preserving government and historical records and said it has always been committed to preserving its holdings "without alteration."

But the archives said in a statement Saturday "we made a mistake." The archives' statement came one day after The Washington Post published an online report about the altered images.

The archives said the photo in question is not one of its archival records, but rather was licensed for use as a promotional graphic in the exhibit.

"Nonetheless, we were wrong to alter the image," the agency said.

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

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Photographing Impeachment Proceedings Against Three Presidents (New Yorker)



John Ehrlichman, who served as counsel and domestic-policy chief under

President Richard Nixon, sits amid reporters and photographers after an impeachment hearing in August, 1973. Photo/David Burnett

By Isaac Chotiner

For more than half a century, David Burnett has been photographing impeachments, wars, revolutions, Olympic Games, and artists, making himself one of the stars of his field. He got his start around the time of the moon landing, when he had the idea to take pictures of the people watching that historic event. A couple of years later he was in Vietnam, where he was present when the Associated Press's Nick Ut took a legendary photograph of a nine-year-old girl covered in napalm. Burnett gained wider renown several years later for his work in Iran during and after the Revolution. Since that time, he has shot numerous sporting events, and compiled a book about the reggae star Bob Marley.

At various points over the past five decades, Burnett has also made forays into Washington. He took a number of famous photos of the Watergate hearings, and then did something similar twenty-five years later, for the Clinton impeachment. This past December, he was in and out of the Capitol taking photographs of the House's impeachment hearings of Donald Trump. (Burnett is sticking around this month, for the trial in the Senate.) I recently spoke by phone with Burnett, and our conversation, edited for length and clarity, appears below, alongside a number of his photographs of three moments of political turmoil.

Read more [here](#).

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Reporters getting 1st taste of impeachment restrictions



Members of the media in the press gallery watch a television monitors of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., speaking to members of the Senate for the impeachment trial against President Donald Trump at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2020. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

By ASHRAF KHALIL

WASHINGTON (AP) - The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump has barely started and already journalists are getting a glimpse of how hard it will be cover the event under harsh new media restrictions imposed by the Senate.

Thursday's impeachment events were largely ceremonial, with the Senate formally receiving the articles of impeachment from the seven appointed managers from the House of Representatives. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and the full Senate were also formally sworn in. The trial begins in earnest on Tuesday.

Thursday also served as a preview of how the new restrictions will warp the daily functioning of the congressional press corps, who are accustomed to approaching senators as they walk through the hallways or emerge from the Senate subway.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Paul Albright.

The Final Word



"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Shared by Ed Williams)

Today in History - January 20, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 20, the 20th day of 2020. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 20, 2001, George Walker Bush became America's 43rd president after one of the most turbulent elections in U.S. history.

On this date:

In 1649, King Charles I of England went on trial, accused of high treason (he was found guilty and executed by month's end).

In 1801, Secretary of State John Marshall was nominated by President John Adams to be chief justice of the United States (he was sworn in on Feb. 4, 1801).

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt became the first chief executive to be inaugurated on Jan. 20 instead of March 4.

In 1942, Nazi officials held the notorious Wannsee conference, during which they arrived at their "final solution" that called for exterminating Europe's Jews.

In 1964, Capitol Records released the album "Meet the Beatles!"

In 1981, Iran released 52 Americans it had held hostage for 444 days, minutes after the presidency had passed from Jimmy Carter to Ronald Reagan.

In 1986, the United States observed the first federal holiday in honor of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1994, Shannon Faulkner became the first woman to attend classes at The Citadel in South Carolina. (Faulkner joined the cadet corps in Aug. 1995 under court order but soon dropped out, citing isolation and stress from the legal battle.)

In 2003, Secretary of State Colin Powell, faced with stiff resistance and calls to go slow, bluntly told the Security Council that the U.N. "must not shrink" from its responsibility to disarm Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

In 2007, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., launched her first campaign for the White House, saying in a videotaped message on her website: "I'm in, and I'm in to win."

In 2009, Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's 44th, as well as first African-American, president. Russian natural gas began flowing into Ukraine after a nearly two-week cutoff that had left large parts of Europe cold and dark.

In 2017, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th president of the United States, pledging emphatically to empower America's "forgotten men and women." Protesters registered their rage against the new president in a chaotic confrontation with police just blocks from the inaugural parade.

Ten years ago: National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair conceded missteps in the government's handling of the Christmas Day 2009 airline bombing attempt in testimony before the Senate Homeland Security Committee.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, undaunted by the new Republican majority in Congress, issued a sweeping challenge in his State of the Union address to do more for the poor and middle class and to end the nasty partisan political fight that had characterized his six years in office. The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages unless its ransom demands were met. (Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa were both slain by their captors.)

One year ago: The Los Angeles Rams advanced to the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots after a 26-23 overtime victory over the New Orleans Saints in the NFC championship game; the outcome might not have been possible without what the NFL acknowledged was a mistake by officials who failed to call a penalty when a Rams player leveled a Saints receiver with a helmet-to-helmet hit in the final minutes of regulation. The Patriots beat the Kansas City Chiefs 37-31 for the AFC championship. The year's only total lunar eclipse was visible throughout North and South America; it took place during the year's first supermoon, when a full moon appears a little bigger and brighter thanks to its slightly closer position.

Today's Birthdays: Former astronaut Buzz Aldrin is 90. Olympic gold medal figure skater Carol Heiss is 80. Singer Eric Stewart is 75. Movie director David Lynch is 74. Country-rock musician George Grantham (Poco) is 73. Israeli activist Natan Sharansky is 72. Actor Daniel Benzali is 70. Rock musician Paul Stanley (KISS) is 68. Rock musician Ian Hill (Judas Priest) is 68. Comedian Bill Maher (MAR) is 64. Actor Lorenzo Lamas is 62. Actor James Denton is 57. Rock musician Greg K. (The

Offspring) is 55. Country singer John Michael Montgomery is 55. Sophie, Countess of Wessex, is 55. Actor Rainn Wilson is 54. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway is 53. Actress Stacey Dash is 53. TV personality Melissa Rivers is 52. Singer Xavier is 52. Actor Reno Wilson is 51. Singer Edwin McCain is 50. Actor Skeet Ulrich is 50. Rap musician ?uestlove (questlove) (The Roots) is 49. Former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley is 48. Rock musician Rob Bourdon (Linkin Park) is 41. Singer-songwriter Bonnie McKee is 36. Country singer Brantley Gilbert is 35. Rock singer Kevin Parker (Tame Impala) is 34. Actor Evan Peters is 33.

Thought for Today: "Whatever people in general do not understand, they are always prepared to dislike; the incomprehensible is always the obnoxious." [-] Letitia Landon, English poet (1802-1838).

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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