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Connecting - January 22, 2020

1 message

Paul Stevens <paulstevens46@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 22, 2020 at 8:51 AM

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Connecting

January 22, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 22nd day of January 2020,

First response arrived on Connecting asking your opinion on The New York Times endorsing two candidates for the Democratic nomination for president. Thanks,
Norm Abelson!

And we heard from two of you with responses to how your first day on the job went. Thanks, **Hal Spencer**, **Joe Galloway** and **Tannen Maury**!

Got thoughts to share on either subject - or something brand new? Hope you share.

Many of you enjoyed the late-1980s photo of AP chiefs of bureau that appeared in Tuesday's issue. Thanks to **Francesca Pitaro** of Corporate Archives for tracking down three other group photos. See today's The Final Word.

Have a great day!

Paul

Is the New York Times ducking for cover?

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - The NYTimes has done what - endorsed TWO candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination? Wait a minute, I think I only have ONE vote to cast.

I've never let the Times, or any other source's, opinions dictate where I mark my choice on the ballot. What I do take into serious account is the objective reporting of responsible news outlets - including the Times, which I continue to read and learn from.

Maybe I'm a bit paranoid, but I've felt for a while that some of the Times reports and choice of photos seemed to lean toward Elizabeth Warren and away from Joe Biden. Also, selecting Amy Klobuchar, whom I greatly admire, as its moderate choice (one unlikely to get the nomination) could be a way to get Biden, the moderate who has consistently led in the polls, out of the picture. Wouldn't that leave Ms. Warren as the Times's real choice?

A useful question to pose to the Times might be, "If you had to choose between Warren and Klobuchar, which would it be?"

Memories of that first day on the job

Joe Galloway (Email) - I reported to work at the UPI Kansas City Bureau early in February 1961 and was greeted by Bureau Chief Dave Oestreicher. He asked if I had ever covered basketball. I said NO! He asked if I liked basketball. I said NO. He said that didn't really matter; that just down the road at the convention center something called the NAIA Championship Playoffs was underway and I would be covering the morning games. He pointed to a portable typewriter and waved me goodbye. I trudged off thinking that my first day at work was likely to be my last day as well. At the center I found my way to the press section, a long table front row and center. A whistle blew and the game began. Within seconds a referee collapsed on the court, dead of a heart attack. Now THAT I knew how to cover. And the cluster of fellow reporters at the table were kind enough to lend a hand after the game got back underway, saving the greenhorn from himself?.

-0-

Tannen Maury (Email) - July 5, 1983, was my first day as an AP staff photographer and I started, jumping straight into the fire, by reporting to work at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman to cover an execution. Having grown up in Memphis and attended Ole Miss, I was familiar with the Mississippi Delta.



The person to be executed in the gas chamber was Jimmy Lee Gray, convicted of killing a three-year-old girl in 1976 while out on parole from a previous murder conviction. This was to be the first execution in the state after reinstatement of the

death penalty nationally, and one of the first in the country so executions were big news. It was scheduled for one minute after midnight on July 6th.

David Breslauer from Dallas came in to teach me the ropes. I arrived at 9 a.m. driving down from Memphis. David came in shortly after. We set up our darkroom in the visitors center near the front gate and spent the rest of the day taking pictures of the scene, the guards, the hoards of media arriving, etc.

The deputy warden was a six-gun on his hip toting Billy-Bad-Ass who made it clear that he would put up with no nonsense from the media... step over the line and you were gone, or worse... incarcerated. He made his first appearance when he pulled up in a truck loaded with trustees who set about building a split rail fence that marked the border we were not to cross.

As the sun set that evening the mosquitoes came out, large enough to wear uniforms and serve as prison guards and sending us into the visitors center to get away from them. After dark we heard a huge crash. Not knowing if it was part of a protest, or jailbreak (unlikely because Parchman is a series of work camps located on 20,000 acres in the middle of the Delta) we rushed out to find an 18 wheeler had crashed outside the front gate. This eased the boredom of the evening.

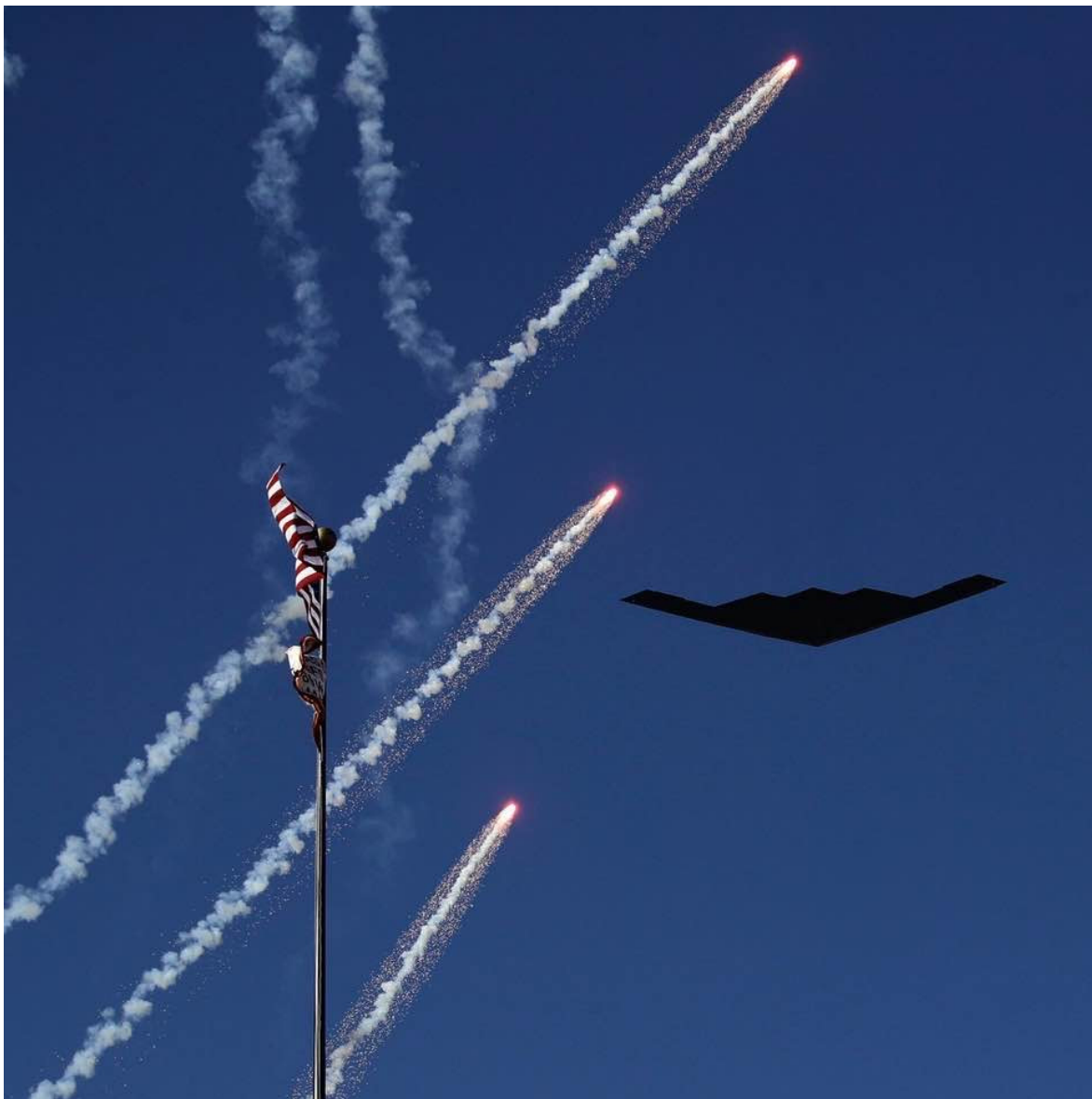
Shortly before midnight, we were told that Gray had been granted a stay of execution by the U.S. Supreme Court. Executions in Mississippi were to take place as early as possible on the scheduled day in case a stay was issued. This would give the state attorneys nearly 24 hours to appeal and, if successful, avoid having to wait for another date to be scheduled. We spent the day waiting. Late in the afternoon the trustees returned and began dismantling the split rail fence under the watch of deputy warden Billy-Bad-Ass. It became apparent that the appeal would not be considered with any haste. I packed my gear and headed to Jackson. David Breslauer returned to Dallas.

Needless to say, I had taken a bunch of pictures of warden Billy. When the execution was rescheduled for early September, I returned to Parchman, this time with Dave Martin from Montgomery. It was the same routine with warden Billy, trustees, split rail fence, etc. Shortly after he arrived, I walked over to him, had to cross "the line" to get to him, and handed him an envelope as he glared at me. Inside were 15 black and white pictures of Billy that I'd taken in July. When I got back in the safe zone, I looked at him and he was smiling. We became friends over the years and he was a big help in facilitating any coverage I needed from the notorious prison, even going so far as to lay his phone down next to his prison radio so I could listen when events dictated that he could not officially speak to me.

-0-

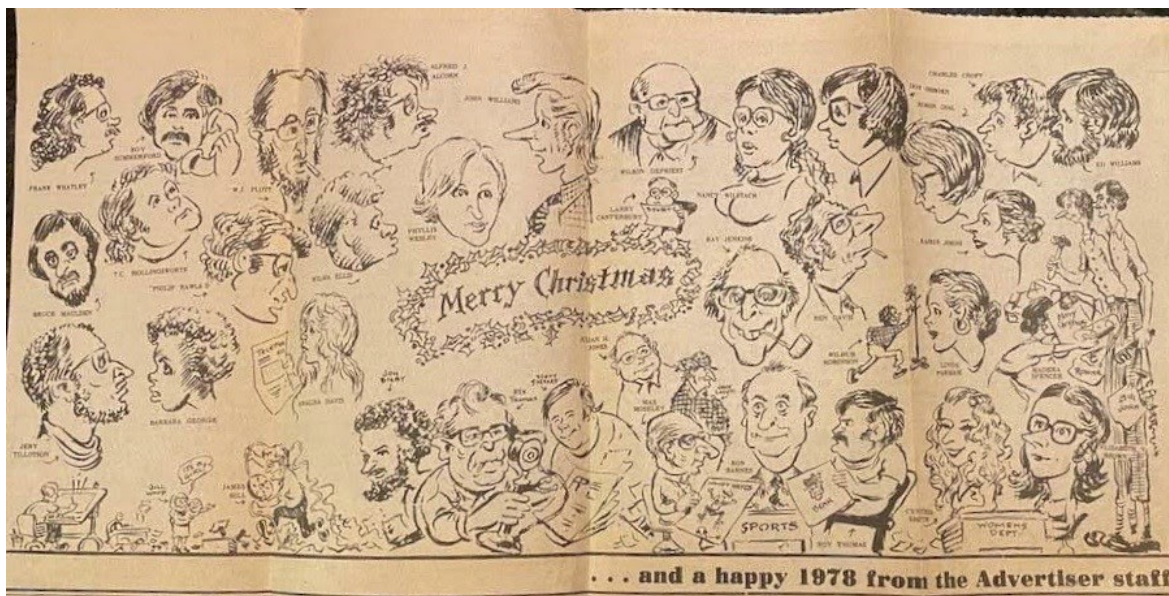
Hal Spencer (Email) - The ringing phone before dawn roused me from the air mattress in my bare apartment. Providence RI, February, 1980. First day at AP and JO (Providence bureau) was on the line. Don't come to the bureau, the early guy said. Go to West Warwick High School ASAP to cover a wildcat teachers strike. It's a national story. I found the high school. Found a pay phone. Found the story. I didn't see the inside of the Providence Bureau or my new colleagues for days. A daily national story with byline. Not a bad way to start at the world's greatest news organization.

AP Photo of the Day (Chiefs Sunday)



An Air Force B-2 bomber flies over the fireworks of Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City this past Sunday before the start of the AFC Championship game won by the Chiefs over the Tennessee Titans, sending the Chiefs to the Super Bowl for the first time in 50 years. AP Photo by Charlie Riedel.

The good old days



Ed Williams ([Email](#)) - Down memory lane, those were the good all days!

Our Christmas card published in The Montgomery Advertiser, 1977. I was a reporter on the state desk. Back in the heyday of newspapers, Montgomery, Alabama, had The Montgomery Advertiser, the morning newspaper, and there was also the Alabama Journal in the afternoon.

Cartoonist Frank Spangler did the artwork which was an annual Christmas tradition at the newspaper.

The Journal later merged into the Advertiser. And the Montgomery Advertiser staff of today is only a shadow of its old self.

The Associated Press was located in the Advertiser-Journal newsroom. Can you spot Rex Thomas, the bureau chief, and AP reporters Jon Bixby and Scott Shepard? Rex got to keep his trademark vintage telephone as a gift when he retired.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Charles Pittman - cpittman@schurz.com

Stories of interest

Denver Post Columnist Fired After Arguing There Are Two Sexes (Washington Free Beacon)

By Alex Griswold

A Denver Post columnist says he was fired after disputing the idea that there are more than two sexes.

Jon Caldara, president of the libertarian Independence Institute, announced that he has been fired from the Post, chalking it up to "a difference in style" that his editors found "too insensitive."

"My column is not a soft voiced, sticky sweet NPR-styled piece which employs the language now mandated by the victim-centric, identity politics driven media," he said in a Facebook post. "What seemed to be the last straw for my column was my insistence that there are only two sexes and my frustration that to be inclusive of the transgendered (even that word isn't allowed) we must lose our right to free speech."

Caldara criticized an Associated Press directive saying that sex and gender are not binary. "There are only two sexes, identified by an XX or XY chromosome. That is the very definition of binary. The AP ruling it isn't so doesn't change science. It's a premeditative attempt to change culture and policy. It's activism," he wrote on Jan. 3. In a column two weeks later, Caldara also railed against a 2019 Colorado law that required elementary school children to be instructed in transgender ideology.

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

-0-

Legislators consider bill requiring news outlets to update crime stories (Concord Monitor)

By **ETHAN DeWITT**

Publicity comes part and parcel with most major arrests: a mug shot, a press release, and an article in the newspaper or a report on the nightly news.

But in the age of the internet, that article has an enduring shelf-life a lot longer than decades ago. For those whose charges are dropped or are later exonerated, that arrest can live forever in Google search results.

This year, one representative is trying to legislate a change to that scenario. A bill by Jack Flanagan, a Brookline Republican, would require news outlets to update all online articles about people in the judicial system if they were acquitted, found not guilty, or had their charges dropped.

That update would need to be made "following written notification" by the person in the criminal proceeding.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Rachel Ambrose.

-0-

Tribune Publishing Offers Voluntary Buyouts To 9 Newspapers (Media Post)

By **Fern Siegel**

Tribune Publishing is offering more voluntary buyouts to staffers.

The buyouts, announced Monday (Jan. 13), target any staffer with eight-plus years of service, reported the Chicago Tribune.

Tribune Publishing owns nine newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune, New York Daily News, The Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel and The Hartford Courant.

Tim Knight, CEO and president of Tribune Publishing, wrote in an employee email: "Although our digital successes provide good momentum, we continue to face industry-wide revenue challenges. A significant amount of our revenue continues to come from our print titles and our commercial manufacturing and distribution business.

"Since we remain committed to extending the life of those products and services and to serving our home delivery subscribers, we need to anticipate continued print revenue declines by reducing our expenses."

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

The Final Word

1985...



Mary Lodenhandler

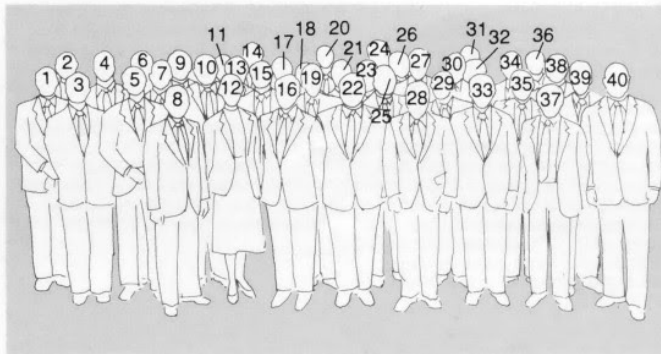
AP's 40 domestic bureau chiefs met in New York in June for the first bureau chief meeting in nearly four years. After discussing all aspects of AP operations, they paused for a traditional picture in front of the entrance to the AP building. Can you match the following names of AP bureau chiefs with the right faces? To start, here's some help: #8 is AP President and General Manager Louis D. Boccardi, #12 is Hartford Chief of Bureau Elaine Hooker, one bureau chief is partially hidden and one is missing.

Name That Bureau Chief

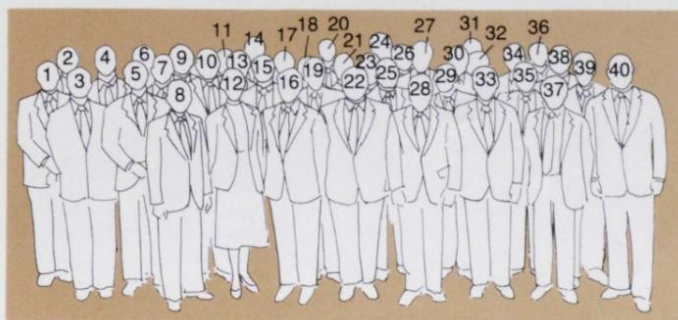
- ___ Hank Ackerman, New Orleans
- ___ Pat Arnold, Little Rock
- ___ Bill Beecham, Salt Lake City
- ___ Carl Bell, Atlanta
- ___ Jake Booher, Columbus
- ___ Sam Boyle, New York City
- ___ John Brewer, Los Angeles
- ___ Gary Clark, Miami
- ___ Ambrose Dudley, Raleigh
- ___ Tom Dygard, Chicago
- ___ Kent Flanagan, Nashville
- ___ Howard Graves, Honolulu

- ___ Charles Hill, Minneapolis
- ___ Elaine Hooker, Hartford
- ___ Bob Johnson, Albuquerque
- ___ Jon Kellogg, Concord
- ___ John Kuglin, Helena
- ___ Chuck Lewis, Washington
- ___ Andy Lippman, Indianapolis
- ___ John Lumpkin, Dallas
- ___ Larry McDermott, Detroit
- ___ Joe McGowan, Denver
- ___ Dennis Montgomery, Richmond
- ___ Eric Newhouse, Charleston

- ___ Gavin Scott, Phoenix
- ___ Robert Shaw, Oklahoma City
- ___ Michael Short, Boston
- ___ John Shurr, Columbia
- ___ Tom Slaughter, Newark
- ___ Hal Spencer, Anchorage
- ___ Rick Spratling, Milwaukee
- ___ Ed Staats, Louisville
- ___ Paul Stevens, Kansas City
- ___ Marty Thompson, San Francisco
- ___ Dave Tomlin, Des Moines
- ___ Hugh Van Swearingen, Portland
- ___ Lew Wheaton, Albany
- ___ Jim Wilson, Seattle
- ___ John Woodfield, Baltimore
- ___ George Zucker, Philadelphia



Answers on page 35



Quiz Answers

Name That Bureau Chief

Hank Ackerman, New Orleans	32	Bob Johnson, Albuquerque	40	John Shurr, Columbia	26
Pat Arnold, Little Rock	23	Jon Kellogg, Concord	37	Tom Slaughter, Newark	4
Bill Beecham, Salt Lake City	22	John Kuglin, Helena	39	Hal Spencer, Anchorage	3
Carl Bell, Atlanta	29	Chuck Lewis, Washington	2	Rick Spratling, Milwaukee	1
Jake Booher, Columbus	9	Andy Lippman, Indianapolis	28	Ed Staats, Louisville	11
Sam Boyle, New York City	20	John Lumpkin, Dallas	34	Paul Stevens, Kansas City	24
John Brewer, Los Angeles	16	Larry McDermott, Detroit	missing	Marty Thompson, San Francisco	13
Gary Clark, Miami	30	Joe McGowan, Denver	33	Dave Tomlin, Des Moines	31
Ambrose Dudley, Raleigh	14	Dennis Montgomery, Richmond	21	Hugh Van Swearingen, Portland	10
Tom Dygard, Chicago	25	Eric Newhouse, Charleston	27	Lew Wheaton, Albany	36
Kent Fianagan, Nashville	38	Gavin Scott, Phoenix	17	Jim Wilson, Seattle	15
Howard Graves, Honolulu	35	Robert Shaw, Oklahoma City	18	John Woodfield, Baltimore	19
Charles Hill, Minneapolis	6	partially hidden,	5	George Zucker, Philadelphia	7
Elaine Hooker, Hartford	12	Michael Short, Boston			

1989...



1993...



(Photos courtesy of AP Corporate Archives)

Today in History - January 22, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Jan. 22, the 22nd day of 2020. There are 344 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 22, 1998, Theodore Kaczynski (kah-ZIHN'-skee) pleaded guilty in Sacramento, California, to being the Unabomber responsible for three deaths and 29 injuries in return for a sentence of life in prison without parole.

On this date:

In 1498, during his third voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus arrived at the present-day Caribbean island of St. Vincent.

In 1901, Britain's Queen Victoria died at age 81 after a reign of 63 years; she was succeeded by her eldest son, Edward VII.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces began landing at Anzio, Italy.

In 1953, the Arthur Miller drama "The Crucible," set during the Salem witch trials, opened on Broadway.

In 1970, the first regularly scheduled commercial flight of the Boeing 747 began in New York and ended in London some 6 1/2 hours later.

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its Roe v. Wade decision, legalized abortions using a trimester approach. Former President Lyndon B. Johnson died at his Texas ranch at age 64.

In 1987, Pennsylvania treasurer R. Budd Dwyer, convicted of defrauding the state, proclaimed his innocence at a news conference before pulling out a gun, placing the barrel in his mouth and shooting himself to death in front of horrified onlookers.

In 1994, actor Telly Savalas died in Universal City, California, a day after turning 72.

In 1995, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port, Mass., at age 104.

In 1997, the Senate confirmed Madeleine Albright as the nation's first female secretary of state.

In 2007, a double car bombing of a predominantly Shiite commercial area in Baghdad killed 88 people. Iran announced it had barred 38 nuclear inspectors on a United Nations list from entering the country in apparent retaliation for U.N. sanctions imposed the previous month.

In 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order to close the Guantanamo Bay prison camp within a year. (The facility remained in operation as lawmakers blocked efforts to transfer terror suspects to the United States; President Donald Trump later issued an order to keep the jail open and allow the Pentagon to bring new prisoners there.)

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama tried to revive his battered agenda and rally Democrats with a renewed emphasis on jobs during a town hall meeting in Elyria (el-LEER'-ee-uh), Ohio. The "Hope for Haiti Now" telethon raised more than \$66 million. Conan O'Brien ended his brief tenure of only seven months on "The Tonight Show" after accepting a \$45 million buyout from NBC to leave the show he'd long dreamed of hosting. Actress Jean Simmons, 80, died in Santa Monica, California. Actor James Mitchell, 89, died in Los Angeles.

Five years ago: With thousands of abortion protesters swarming Washington in their annual March for Life, the House voted 242-179 to permanently forbid federal funds for most abortion coverage, even though the legislation had no realistic chance of

passage. Yemen's U.S.-backed president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, quit under pressure from rebels holding him captive in his home. Former U.S. Senator and Kentucky Governor Wendell Ford, 90, died in Owensboro.

One year ago: The Supreme Court said the Trump administration could go ahead with its plan to restrict military service by transgender men and women as court challenges continued. Los Angeles teachers overwhelmingly approved a new contract, ending a six-day strike over funding and staffing in the nation's second-largest school district. "Roma" and "The Favourite" each picked up 10 nominations for the 91st Academy Awards; Netflix and Marvel each scored their first best-picture nomination, for "Roma" (Netflix) and "Black Panther" (Marvel.) Former New York Yankees reliever Mariano Rivera became baseball's first unanimous Hall of Fame selection, as he was elected along with Edgar Martinez, Mike Mussina and the late Roy Halladay.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Piper Laurie is 88. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr (TV: "The Galloping Gourmet") is 86. Author Joseph Wambaugh is 83. Singer Steve Perry is 71. Country singer-musician Teddy Gentry (Alabama) is 68. Movie director Jim Jarmusch is 67. Actor John Wesley Shipp is 65. Hockey Hall of Famer Mike Bossy is 63. Actress Linda Blair is 61. Actress Diane Lane is 55. Actor and rap DJ Jazzy Jeff is 55. Country singer Regina Nicks (Regina Regina) is 55. Celebrity chef Guy Fieri is 52. Actress Olivia d'Abo is 51. Actress Katie Finneran is 49. Actor Gabriel Macht is 48. Actor Balthazar Getty is 45. Actor Christopher Kennedy Masterson is 40. Jazz singer Lizz Wright is 40. Pop singer Willa Ford is 39. Actress Beverley (cq) Mitchell is 39. Rock singer-musician Ben Moody is 39. Actor Kevin Sheridan is 38. Actress-singer Phoebe Strole is 37. Rapper Logic is 30. Tennis player Alize Cornet (uh-LEEZ' kohr-NAY') is 30. Actress Sami Gayle is 24.

Thought for Today: "I know there's a proverb which that says 'To err is human,' but a human error is nothing to what a computer can do if it tries." [-] Dame Agatha Christie, English mystery writer (1890-1976).

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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