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Connecting April 20, 2020

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Colleagues,

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

Today's Connecting Profile focuses on our colleague **Marcia Dunn**, who has been the AP's aerospace writer in Cape Canaveral, Fla., for the past 30 years.

When she was offered the job by then Executive Editor **Bill Ahearn**, he asked for a minimum five-year commitment, she recalls. "Here I am, 25 years beyond that. Who would have thought? I've no plans to retire anytime soon."

We are sorry to report in today's issue the death of **David Melendy**, who worked 33 years in Washington's Broadcast News Center as an AP Radio anchor and correspondent. He died Saturday after a long illness. His former Broadcast colleagues **Mark Hamrick**, **Ed Tobias** and **Michael Weinfeld** share their thoughts – and Connecting would welcome your memories of David.



AP GROUND GAME: India has launched one of the most draconian social experiments in human history – a lockdown of its entire population. In Friday's "Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak" podcast, host Ralph Russo talks to South Asia correspondent Emily Schmall about what the world's largest lockdown looks like.

Listen [here](#).

As is our new custom, we begin by sharing thoughts of your colleagues on words – in poetry, song or verse – that help uplift you in these trying times of COVID-19. Please share your own - as well as any story you have on coping with the way coronavirus has changed your life. You'll be doing your colleagues a favor.

Be safe and healthy, have hope, stay optimistic and have a great week!

Paul

Uplifting thoughts in these trying times

Betsy Blaney ([Email](#)) - Here is something you might want to use as an uplifting and inspiring piece of writing:

“When you go out and see the empty streets, the empty stadiums, the barren parks, don't say to yourself, ‘It looks like the end of the world.’ What you're seeing is love in action. What you're seeing, in that negative space, is how much we do care for each other, for our grandparents, for our immuno-compromised brothers and sisters, for people we will never meet. People will lose jobs over this. Some will lose their businesses. And some will lose their lives. All the more reason to take a moment, when you're out on your walk, or on your way to the store, or just watching the news, to look into the emptiness and marvel at all of that love. Let it fill you and sustain you. It isn't the end of the world. It is the most remarkable act of global solidarity we may ever witness.”

-unknown

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Bryan Brumley ([Email](#)) – Here's a poem that moved me.

Imagine with me for a moment-
don't worry, I'm not saying it's real.
Imagine, if you can, that there has been
not a calamity, but a great awakening.
Pretend, just for a moment, that we all so loved our threatened earth
that we stopped going on cruises,
limited international flights,
worked on cherishing the places
where we already are.
In this pretty fantasy, everyone who possibly can
stops commuting. Spends the extra time
with their kids or pets or garden.
We have the revelation that everyone
needs health care, sick leave, steady work.

It occurs to us that health care workers
are heroes. Also teachers.
Not to mention the artists of all kinds
who teach us resilience and joy.
Imagine, if you will.
that we turned to our neighbors
in mutual aid, trading eggs for milk,
checking in on those who are elderly
or alone. Imagine that each of us
felt suddenly called to wonder
In this moment, what does the world
need from me? What are my gifts?
Yes, I know, it's just a fantasy.
The world could never change
so radically overnight.
But imagine.

- Lynn Ungar

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Sue Major Holmes ([Email](#)) - “Always remember you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, smarter than you think and twice as beautiful as you’ve ever imagined.”– Dr. Seuss.

Connecting profile **Marcia Dunn**



Marcia Dunn with retired NASA flight director Gene Kranz of Apollo 11 and 13 fame, inside the newly restored Mission Control in Houston in June 2019.

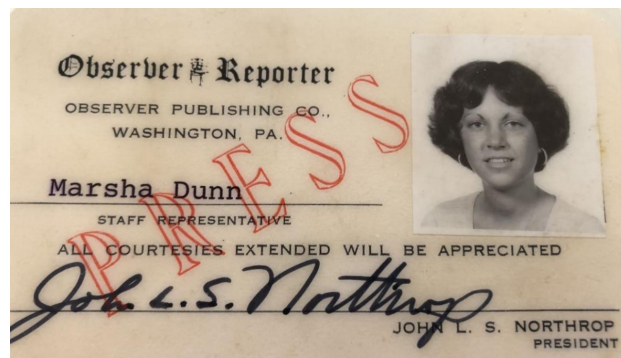
What are you doing these days?

This past February, I marked my 30th year at Cape Canaveral covering space for the AP. I remember clearly that when executive editor Bill Ahearn offered me the aerospace writer job in 1990, he wanted a minimum five-year commitment. Here I am, 25 years beyond that. Who would have thought? I've no plans to retire anytime soon.

It's been a solid month that I've worked from home in Cocoa Beach, while overseeing my eighth-grader's online school studies. Space news doesn't take a break, even in the face of a pandemic, so I've been quite busy. In fact, NASA and SpaceX are gearing up for the first astronaut launch from here in nine years, on May 27. We'll see how much the coronavirus outbreak affects preflight and flight coverage. I still have 24-7 access to my one-person trailer inside Kennedy Space Center, but that could change any moment. So for now, I figure it's better to stay put. I can't say I miss the long round-about commute from home to school to space center and back. I'm even managing to squeeze in a solitary 5-K run every morning before reporting for duty at the dining room table. But all three of us - myself, husband and son - are eager to resume our pre-virus life or at least some semblance of it.

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

As a farm girl growing up in southwestern Pennsylvania, I set my sights on becoming a journalist early on. I was keen to travel the world and witness history in the making. Lucky for me, my hometown daily, the Observer-Reporter in Washington, Pa., hired me to help in the newsroom during college breaks. I did it all: society page announcements, county fair winners, obituaries, features, you name it. With that experience behind me, the AP in Pittsburgh hired me as a summer relief staffer, just days after my graduation from Duquesne University in May 1978. Byron Yake was the Pittsburgh correspondent that summer, and George Zucker was the COB in Philadelphia. They took a chance on a new journalism graduate, and I will be forever grateful to them both.



Two days into the job, one of the year's biggest Pittsburgh stories fell into my lap. An ironworker atop an old bridge being prepped for demolition got his leg caught between beams. As a surgeon rushed to the scene to amputate the man's leg high above the Monongahela River, news editor Dave Tabolt sent me to the bridge on the city's South Side to gather information from

eyewitnesses and police. I used a street pay phone to call in quotes and color. After several hours of this, I returned to the office. I'll never forget the astonished look on Dave's face when I walked in, unannounced. I'd unknowingly broken a cardinal rule of reporting: Check in with the desk before leaving the scene of a breaking news story. In any event, all was forgiven, and the dramatic story yielded my first a-wire byline. The ironworker, incidentally, survived, and the Brady Street Bridge came down without further mishap several days later.

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

Working for the AP that summer of 1978 was magical, even though it meant showing up before dawn every morning for the early broadcast-writing shift. As my three-month stint ended, Byron Yake and George Zucker encouraged me to get a newspaper reporting job and come back to the AP the following summer. I took their advice, putting in six months with the Steubenville Herald-Star in Ohio before returning in May 1979 to the AP in Pittsburgh. This time, the AP kept me. There were no full-time openings in Pennsylvania, so off I went to the Columbus, Ohio, bureau (where Bill DeMascio was chief of bureau). After two years in Columbus, I returned to Pittsburgh in 1981. As liver transplants took off at the University of Pittsburgh, I focused more and more on medical and health reporting, valuable prep work for what was to come. As 1990 loomed, the AP's legendary and longtime aerospace writer Howard Benedict was close to retiring. The AP needed a replacement for him - fast. It was Friday, Feb. 2, 1990, and I was in Punxsutawney, Pa., finishing my story on Phil, the groundhog, when Bill Ahearn reached me by phone at the hotel. He got straight to it: It seems I had a knack for translating technical topics into understandable English. Was I interested in taking over the space beat at Cape Canaveral? You bet, I answered. Then be in New York first thing Monday morning to discuss the job. And oh by the way, Ahearn added, we'll need you in Cape Canaveral the following Monday.



In front of Atlantis in June 2011, a month before its launch on NASA's final space shuttle flight.

So on Monday, Feb. 12, 1990, I reported for duty at the cape. Howard and Harry Rosenthal, another of AP's fine early space writers, helped tremendously as I settled into the space beat. Good thing: Shuttle Atlantis was just days from launching on a secret military mission, and the Hubble Space Telescope was just two months from flying aboard shuttle Discovery. Until I arrived at Cape Canaveral, the closest I'd come to writing about space was interviewing "Right Stuff" author Tom Wolfe and covering a U.S. astronaut and Soviet cosmonaut's meet-up in Mars, Pennsylvania. So I had a lot to learn.

What was the biggest story or stories you covered?

- when there's not a pandemic - you can find me behind the grand piano at Ascension Catholic Church in Melbourne, Florida, playing for the 11:30 Mass.

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

I've had the good fortune to travel to six of the seven continents, and work has taken me three times to Kazakhstan for Russian launches and landings. But my favorite time away from home came in 2007, as my nearly two-year maternity leave was winding down. Before going back to work that July, I decided to spend a few months in the French countryside, living in an old farmhouse in the Dordogne River valley with my then 1 1/2-year-old son and a retired friend. How I'd love to go back. And I'd be threatened with divorce if I didn't mention Italy. I've lost count of how many times I've been to Italy. Once it's safe again, my Italian-born husband, son and I will be returning for a long overdue visit.

Names of your family members and what they do?



The space beat not only provided a job, but also a husband. Stefano Coledan, a freelance aerospace journalist from Italy's Veneto region, came knocking on my office door at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in August 1990, a half year after I took over the job there. He was looking for AP Radio's Dick Uliano, who had yet to arrive from Washington for the upcoming space shuttle launch. After a few years of back-and-forth visits, Stefano moved to Cape Canaveral at the end of 1994, and we were married - twice - in 1996. The civil ceremony was at a historic inn outside Pittsburgh, and the church ceremony was at a 17th-century chapel in Stefano's hometown of Belluno, an hour's drive north of Venice in the foothills of the Dolomite Alps. Our son, Nicolas Neil Coledan, was born in 2005. (Yes, his middle name pays tribute to Neil Armstrong.) Nicolas starts high school this fall, is just a rank away from becoming an Eagle Scout and plays a mean fiddle. I often accompany him for school and church

performances. Stefano is now a U.S. citizen and technical writer for various companies and continues to be interested in all things space.

Marcia Dunn's email - mdunn@ap.org

David Melendy, former AP Radio anchor, correspondent, dies at 71



David and Lorna Melendy with their sons Seth and Andrew. 2019 Photo/Al Freeman.

Mark Hamrick ([Email](#)) - We learned that former AP Radio anchor, correspondent (retired), David Melendy passed away Saturday in Washington after a long illness.

He worked for the AP for 33 years, from 1985 until he retired in 2015. He was 71.

I became familiar with David's work before I met him in person, when I worked for an AP Radio affiliate/member in the early to mid-1980s. David was an hourly newscast anchor, as silky smooth and calmly reassuring as they come. He was also a superb writer and understood computers long before any of us knew what we were doing with them in the newsroom.

I had the good fortune to work with David when I joined AP Broadcast in Washington in 1986. David was remarkably intelligent, kind, humble and talented and had the highest level of integrity. He was also an active Wire Service Guild leader, volunteering for his colleagues.

He was also an active National Press Club member. After he retired a few years ago, David became active with the Club's Broadcast/Podcast Committee, which regularly produces podcasts consistent with the Club's mission. David invested much time and effort on the press freedom and media literacy causes, producing and hosting podcasts delving into these critically important subjects.

David set the highest standard for our profession. As a devoted friend, he also set the bar.

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David Melendy at work in 1986. Photo/AP Corporate Archives

Ed Tobias ([Email](#)) – David was special. Former colleague Mark Hamrick has written of David’s talent, intelligence and kindness. I’m going to borrow a few adjectives from the Boy Scouts (an organization dear to his heart) to continue to paint David’s picture: helpful, friendly and cheerful.

David and I arrived at AP at about the same time in 1981. David was an AP Radio Network anchor and in-house reporter. If my memory is correct, he also pulled an occasional business shift and maybe even did an agriculture report or two. No challenge was too difficult, which is probably one reason why the Broadcast Center managers asked him to teach others at the BNC how to use a new digital audio editing system that was installed when the BNC moved to its 13th Street location. It was NOT an easy system to master, but David did – certainly faster and more completely than this old manager did – and he jumped right in to help teach it to the rest of the staff. Typical Melendy.

I’d been searching for one more word with which to describe David, because I knew something was missing from what I was writing. I finally found it in an

email that Broadcast's retired Deputy Director, Brad Kalbfeld, sent this evening: "integral." It sums up the man.

Cards or notes can be sent to Lorna Melendy, 413 4th Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. (Thanks to Sandy Kozel for the address).

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Good friends: From left: Tia Mayer, Michael Weinfeld, David Melendy, Lorna Melendy in 2015.

Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - The word Destiny comes to mind when I think of David Melendy.

Forty-five years ago, I was an NYU Broadcast Journalism graduate looking for my first job in radio. David was the news director of WINY in Putnam, Connecticut. One of dozens of news directors I'd sent my resume to. But David was the only one who said that while he had no openings, if I was "ever in the neighborhood," he'd be glad to meet with me.

In the neighborhood. Ha! Putnam was an out-of-the-way, tiny town in Northeastern Connecticut. The joke was that it had more cows than people. Even so, I made the trek from New York and stopped by the station saying I was "in the neighborhood." Good thing I did. David told me that his afternoon anchor-reporter had just quit.

Destiny.

David passed on everything he knew about writing, reporting and anchoring. Everything NYU did NOT teach me. He was a patient teacher, never getting angry about a newbie's mistakes.

I learned that David was friends with a woman named Tia Mayer. He and Tia were members of the Woodstock Players acting troupe, co-starring in "No, No Nanette." A woman at the radio station set us up on a blind date. We got married 2 years later and have been together ever since.

Destiny.

Years later, David and I, unbeknown to me, were competing for the same anchoring job at AP Radio in Washington. David got it, but it was suggested that I apply for a writer's position at AP Broadcast in New York City instead. I landed that job and it wasn't long before the Broadcast division merged with AP Radio in DC, reuniting David and me.

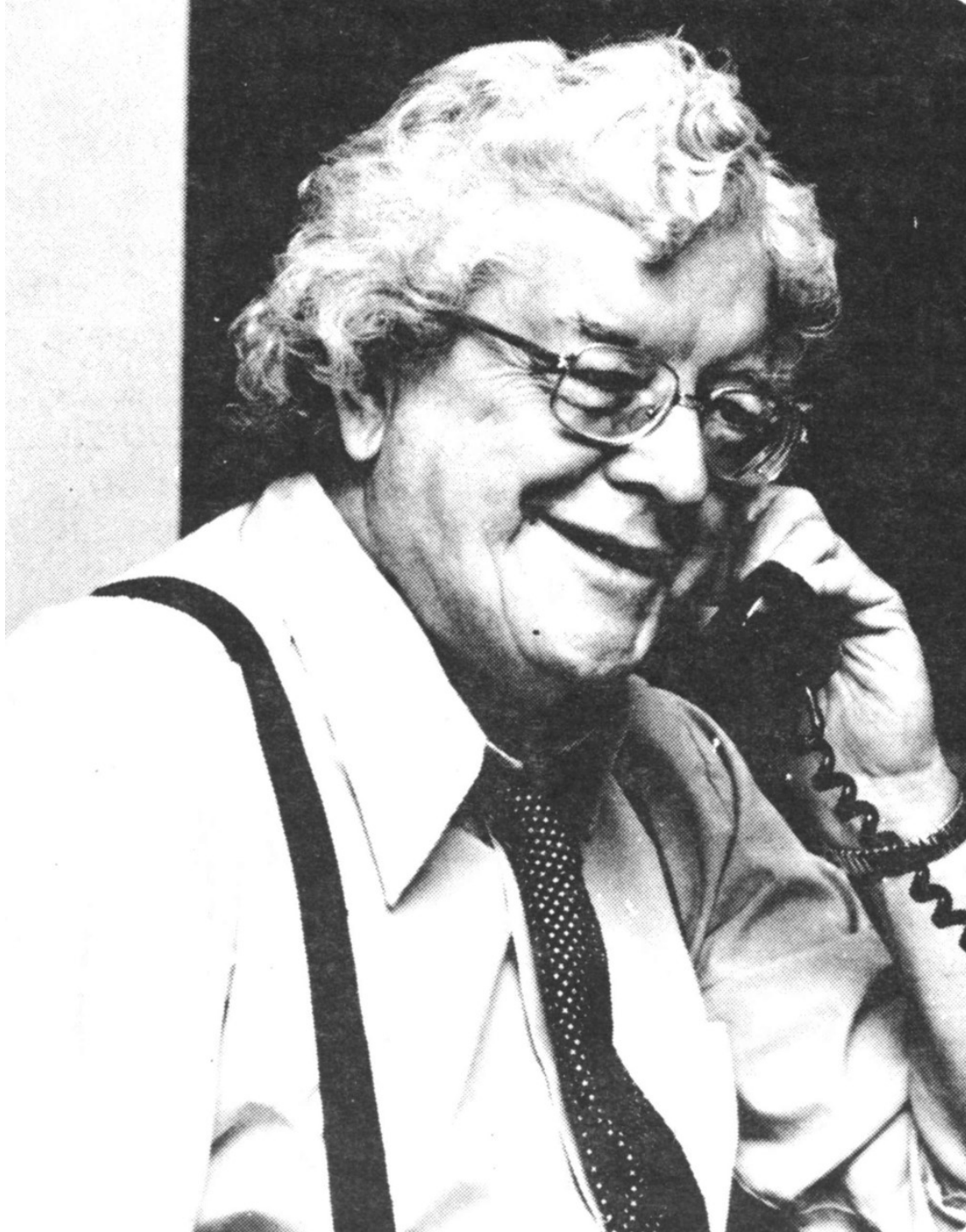
Destiny.

David had one of those "voice of God" deliveries. Perfect for radio. And even though he eventually was switched from anchoring to producing, he continued to strive for excellence. He also put in countless hours, often on his own time, to produce a Today-in-History type feature called "Flashback."

David was serious when it came to the news, but he also had a great sense of humor. We'd always find something to laugh about. When David's wife, Lorna, and Tia joined us, the laughter could be uncontrollable.

A few years ago, David and I returned to Putnam. At the urging of Lorna and Tia, we stopped by WINY. We were persuaded to go on the air and reminisce. Again and again, David was called a "legend" in Putnam. I'd take it a step further. He was a legend everywhere and to everyone who knew him.

Memories of Ed and Brian Dennehy



Ed Dennehy upon retirement in 1977

Photo/AP Corporate Archives, Marty Lederhandler

Virginia Sherlock ([Email](#)) - Reading the tributes to Brian Dennehy and his AP legend dad Ed Dennehy revived a memory of a night in the mid-1970s when Ed told us that Brian was going to be on the TV show "Kojak" and he was so proud and determined that we all see it that he brought in a small black-and-white TV, plugged it in and we all sat around the General Desk and watched Brian play a thug who was apprehended by the lollipop-sucking detective played by Telly Savalas. Ed kept pointing at the nasty tough-guy character on the screen saying, "That's him, that's my boy!"

Ed Dennehy was one of the first of our male colleagues to understand -- and support -- AP women staffers in our action for equality among wire service employees. Ed used to look over at me and wink when he referred to Margaret

Thatcher, the first female prime minister of Great Britain, as "that Thatcher person", being so careful not to call her a "lady".

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Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - Sad to learn of the passing of Brian Dennehy, a great actor. His dad was a beloved overnight editor on the General Desk when I was an AP rookie. I soon found myself flying solo on the sports overnight desk. Every night, at about 3 a.m., Ed Dennehy would walk by with a cup of coffee and pop his head in. ``Everything OK?" he'd ask. It always was but this rookie appreciated an old hand checking up.

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Lee Mitgang ([Email](#)) - As a newly minted national writer in the '70s, I got my share of well-deserved knocks from General Desk staff. But when the source of those "suggestions" was Ed Dennehy, they were always unerringly wise and served up gently and with easy humor. Even at his busiest, his customized sing-songy greeting for me was always "Hi Lee, Hi Lo!" And as many others have already told, Ed was so proud of his son Brian who was just getting noticed as an actor. Ed often pointed me to a TV show or movie featuring Brian. My personal favorite role came a bit later when Brian played a hard-boiled New York cop in the 1986 movie thriller "FX." The opportunity of learning the AP craft from Ed and witnessing his paternal pride are among my most cherished memories.

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Ed Dennehy (left) with Walter Mears (center) and longtime Boston bureau political writer Connie Hurley in 1978. Photo/AP Corporate Archives

Walter Mears ([Email](#)) – Ed was more than an editor - he was a partner all those long nights of campaign coverage. His encouragement and suggestions saw me through countless overnights.

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Sonya Zalubowski ([Email](#)) - Thanks for the pix and wonderful memories of Ed Dennehy. I remember him best for his kindness.

I was new to the Foreign Desk in 1974 in New York and Ed welcomed me. I don't exactly recall how we got around to talking about the General Desk's column on then high inflation and the cost of groceries but I went ahead and gave my suggestion. I told him it could be better. It was written by a single person and only reflected the cost of those groceries, not a whole family's as I suggested. I think Ed agreed because he chuckled that I "had gone where angels feared to step." Apparently, there must have been disagreement on the subject. And, yes, I recall his son was then a struggling actor but that didn't stop Ed from beaming with pride about him.

Connecting mailbox

My first AP byline in 15 years



Lynne Gist walks through the Field of Empty Chairs at the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, Wednesday, April 15, 2020, in Oklahoma City. Gist lost her sister, Karen Gist Carr, April 19, 1995, when a truck bomb ripped through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, killing 168 people. (AP Photo/Sue Ogrocki)

Bobby Ross Jr. ([Email](#)) - *editor-in-chief, The Christian Chronicle, Edmond, Okla.* - I thought you might enjoy knowing that I had my first AP byline in 15 years (that's not long, right?)

I covered the Oklahoma City bombing during my time with The Oklahoman (1993-2002) before leaving to work for AP in Nashville and Dallas (2002-2005). I appreciated Sally Stapleton, AP's global religion editor, letting me write about the significance of a prayer service where the Rev. Billy Graham preached and President Bill Clinton spoke four days after the bombing 25 years ago.

Click [here](#) for the story, headlined: "25 years ago, a prayer service gave hope to a shaken America"

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Judy Gibbs provided gripping broadcast report of Oklahoma City bombing

Jim Bagby ([Email](#)) - Judy Gibbs was being too modest in her colorful first-person offering about the Oklahoma City bombing (published in last Friday's Connecting. Click [here](#) .) Her gripping broadcast report from the scene earned her a national APB award.

She drove as close as she could to the Murrah Building, jumped out of her car, turned on her recorder and let the vivid sounds take over as she walked toward the blast site. It was dramatic, emotional, loud at times, sometimes with just sobbing to be heard. My recollection is that Judy's only words for the longest time as she made her way through the blood, glass and emergency workers were "Oh, my God..."

It was mindful of David Tirrell-Wysocki's prize-winning mic-in-the-air recording from the grandstands in front of Christa McAuliffes' parents as they heard the announcements and reacted to the Challenger tragedy at Kennedy space center in 1986. The AP broadcaster from their New Hampshire home state was virtually silent.

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Heh, Taxi !

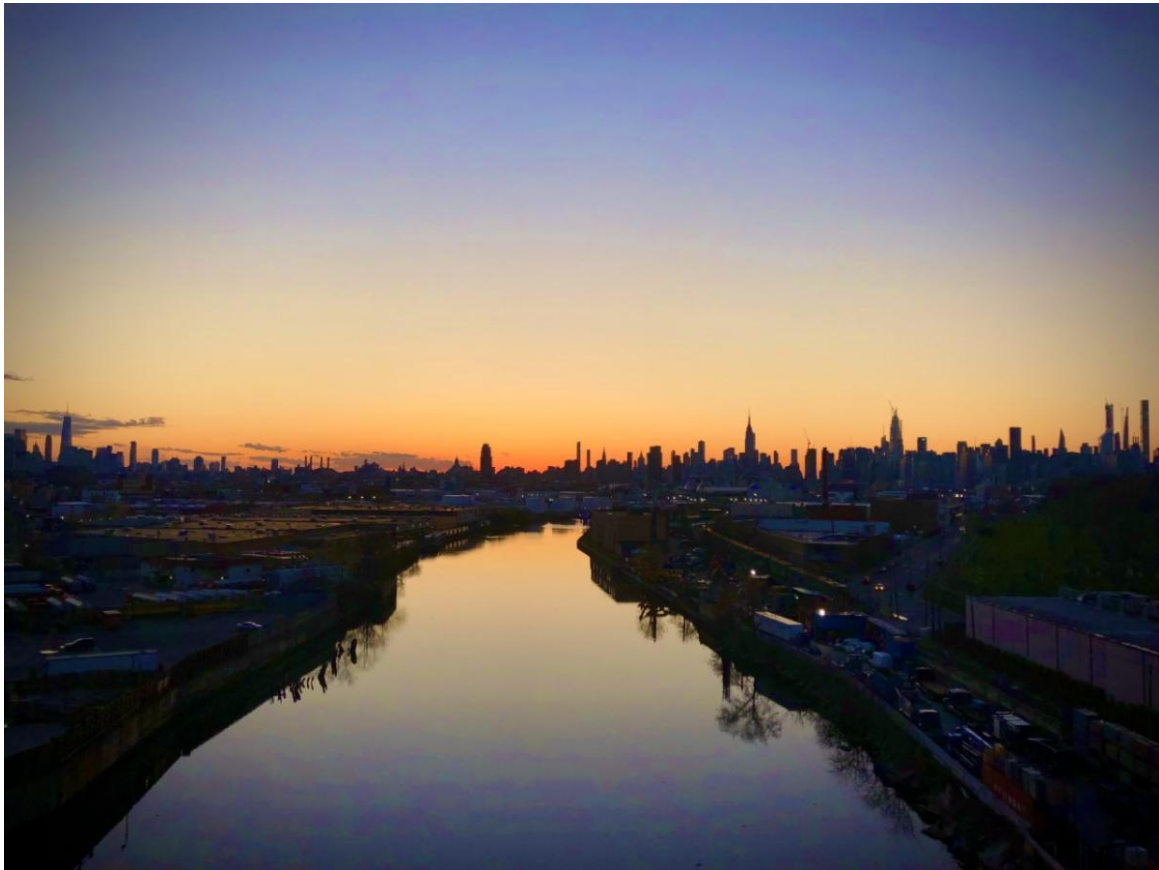
Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Being a cooped-up couple complying with the coronavirus edict, we called in a prescription to our local Rocky Mount, Virginia, pharmacy, and asked for delivery. Finally, two days later, a young lady knocked at our door and delivered the RX. She walked down our driveway and got into a taxi cab which bore the name of the company and city. The city was Lynchburg, Virginia.

Lynchburg is some 64 miles and at least a 1 ½ hour drive – one way! So double that time and mileage.

Turns out, there was no local delivery service.

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Connecting sky shot – Kosciuszco Bridge



Sean Thompson ([Email](#)) - Went for a run the other night after logging off and thankfully didn't encounter many other runners/bikers. I reached the apex of the Kosciuszco bridge as the sun sank behind the Manhattan skyline. The city silhouette and colors reflected in the Newtown Creek were peaceful and beautiful as the usually loud, active city went to sleep on another day of social distancing and sheltering in place.

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Designer facemask



Claudia DiMartino ([Email](#))

Best of the Week

All-formats team chronicles a pivotal 24 hours in ‘The Fight for New York’



AP PHOTOS / MARY ALTAFFER, ROBERT BUMSTED, BEBETO MATTHEWS, JOHN MINCHILLO, MATT ROURKE

The Associated Press followed 10 New York City residents on Monday, April 6, as they navigated another day in the city assailed by the new coronavirus.

On a day when the coronavirus death toll in New York City crossed a grim threshold, a team of AP journalists fanned out to tell the story of the pandemic through the experiences of average New Yorkers.

From the bodega owner whose remaining customers are often funeral home workers, to a 29-year-old paramedic worried about the way the onslaught of cases was eating away at him and other first responders, the stories provided a vivid account of a city bent, but not broken, by the virus. The result was a testament to the AP at its finest: smart planning and collaboration leading to impactful stories, videos and photos, all delivered to customers with remarkable speed. Less than 60 hours after the last interviews, “The Fight for New York” package was out: 11 text and video stories, more than two dozen photos and nine social edits.

Read more [here](#) .

Best of the States

AP traces black Americans’ history of mistrust toward the medical field



Rahmell Peoples walks in his neighborhood during an interview in the Brooklyn borough of New York, March 26, 2020. AP PHOTO / BEBETO MATTHEWS

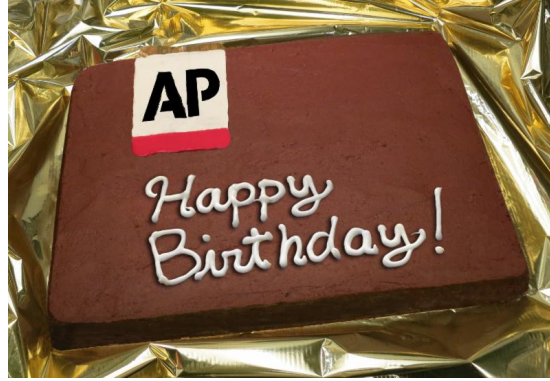
How the government and medical community responds to the coronavirus crisis will be especially crucial for outcomes among black Americans. AP journalists teamed up to look at the barrier of mistrust in some black communities that goes back decades.

As New York, Chicago, New Orleans and other cities with large black populations began to emerge as hot spots for COVID-19, reporters Aaron Morrison and Jay Reeves thought it would be relevant to examine how black Americans have historically mistrusted the medical field.

For the New York-based Morrison, the idea came from conversations with family members. He says some were repeating wrong information and he wondered if it stemmed from black people's historical mistrust of the medical community and government.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Bob Beardsley – beardsleyr@aol.com

Ron Thompson - rmthomfla@aol.com

George Zucker – glzucker@aol.com

Welcome to Connecting



Kathleen Graham - Kathgosail@comcast.net

Stories of interest

To air or not air Trump briefings? Pressure on at networks

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — After CNN’s John King described a video played at President Donald Trump’s coronavirus briefing this week as propaganda, the response was predictable. So why is CNN airing it?

The moment intensified a debate over how much unfiltered airtime the president should get virtually every day during a pandemic.

The coverage is a moving target, with CNN and MSNBC taking a more critical approach lately. Yet despite on-air talent like Rachel Maddow, Don Lemon, Chris Hayes and Joe Scarborough suggesting they'd pull the plug if it were up to them, their bosses have given no indication that they will.

Each day, the decisions are also being played out in newsrooms across the country.

Read more [here](#) .

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Australia to make Google and Facebook pay for news content

By ROD McGUIRK

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Global digital platforms Google and Facebook will be forced to pay for news content in Australia, the government said Monday, as the coronavirus pandemic causes a collapse in advertising revenue.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission would release in late July draft rules for the platforms to pay fair compensation for the journalistic content siphoned from news media.

Frydenberg said he believed that Australia could succeed where other countries, including France and Spain, had failed in making Google and Facebook pay.

“We won’t bow to their threats,” Frydenberg told reporters. “We understand the challenge that we face. This is a big mountain to climb. These are big companies that we are dealing with, but there is also so much at stake, so we’re prepared for this fight.”

The ACCC had attempted to negotiate a voluntary code by which the global giants would agree to pay traditional media for their content.

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

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Tampa Bay Times gets federal loan to help with revenue losses caused by pandemic

By Times Staff Writer

The Tampa Bay Times and its related companies received a loan of \$8.5 million under the federal government's program to support businesses harmed by the coronavirus pandemic.

The loan is guaranteed by the Small Business Administration and comes under the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act passed by Congress last month and signed by President Donald Trump.

The program is designed to help smaller businesses keep paying employees during the crisis, and loan amounts are based on a company's payroll. For the first eight weeks after a loan is made, the government will forgive repayment of expenses for payroll, plus some rent, utilities and mortgage interest.

The crisis hit local businesses hard, and advertising revenues at the Times have fallen by 50 percent. In response, the company reduced newspaper printing and delivery to Wednesday and Sunday and furloughed dozens of employees, mostly in production, delivery and sales.

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

Today in History - April 20, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 20, the 111th day of 2020. There are 255 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 20, 1971, the Supreme Court unanimously upheld the use of busing to achieve racial desegregation in schools.

On this date:

In 1836, Congress voted to establish the Wisconsin Territory.

In 1912, Boston's Fenway Park hosted its first professional baseball game while Navin (NAY'-vihh) Field (Tiger Stadium) opened in Detroit. (The Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders 7-6 in 11 innings; the Tigers beat the Cleveland Naps 6-5 in 11 innings.)

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1938, "Olympia," Leni Riefenstahl's documentary about the 1936 Berlin Olympic games, was first shown in Nazi Germany.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Wooley v. Maynard*, ruled 6-3 that car owners could refuse to display state mottoes on license plates, such as New Hampshire's "Live Free or Die."

In 1986, following an absence of six decades, Russian-born pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed in the Soviet Union to a packed audience at the Grand Hall of the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow.

In 1988, gunmen who had hijacked a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet were allowed safe passage out of Algeria under an agreement that freed the remaining 31 hostages and ended a 15-day siege in which two passengers were slain.

In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

In 2003, U.S. Army forces took control of Baghdad from the Marines in a changing of the guard that thinned the military presence in the capital.

In 2005, President George W. Bush signed a bill making it harder for debt-ridden people to wipe clean their financial slates by declaring bankruptcy. In his first Mass as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI pledged to work for unity among Christians and to seek "an open and sincere dialogue" with other faiths. Ecuador's Congress voted to remove embattled President Lucio Gutierrez from office and swear in Vice President Alfredo Palacio to replace him.

In 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later.)

Ten years ago: ago: Airliners began taking to the skies of Europe again after five days of being grounded by a drifting volcanic ash. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal ban on videos that showed graphic violence against animals. Civil rights activist Dorothy Height died in Washington D.C. at age 98. Keli McGregor, 48, president of baseball's Colorado Rockies, was found dead in a hotel room of natural causes.

Five years ago: The Post and Courier of Charleston, South Carolina, won the Pulitzer Prize for public service for an examination of the deadly toll of domestic violence, while The New York Times collected three awards and the Los Angeles Times two. Lelisa Desisa of Ethiopia won the 119th Boston Marathon, finishing in 2:09:17; Caroline Rotich of Kenya won the women's race in 2:24:55.

One year ago: SpaceX's new capsule for astronauts was destroyed in an explosion during a ground test at Cape Canaveral in Florida; the accident, later blamed on a leaky valve, marked a serious setback in the company's effort to launch NASA astronauts into orbit later in the year. Community members in suburban Denver marked the 20th anniversary of the Columbine High School shooting with a remembrance ceremony and volunteer projects.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Leslie Phillips is 96. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is 84. Actor George Takei is 83. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 82. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 79. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 76. Actress Judith O'Dea is 75. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 72. Actor Gregory Itzin (iht-zihn) is 72. Actress Jessica Lange is 71. Actress Veronica Cartwright is 71. Actor Clint Howard is 61. Actor Crispin Glover is 56. Actor Andy Serkis is 56. Olympic silver medal figure skater Rosalynn Sumners is 56. Actor William deVry is 52. Country singer Wade Hayes is 51. Actor Shemar Moore is 50. Actress Carmen Electra is 48. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 48. Rock musician Marty Crandall is 45. Actor Joey Lawrence is 44. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 42. Actor Clayne Crawford is 42. Actor Tim Jo is 36. Actor Carlos Valdes (TV: "The Flash") is 31.

Thought for Today: "Excellence is not a skill, it is an attitude." [-] Ralph Marston, American football player (1907-1967).

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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