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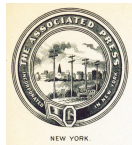
# Connecting - February 18, 2020

1 message

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Tue, Feb 18, 2020 at 8:14 AM

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# Connecting

February 18, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020,

Today's Connecting brings you the second installment by colleague **Hal Buell** on the Battle of Iwo Jima and AP photographer **Joe Rosenthal's** classic photo of the U.S. flag being raised on Mt. Suribachi.

This is a five-part series that began in Monday's edition - so if you missed reading the first installment, you might want to backtrack.

We also bring you first responses to a question posed in Monday's edition - on whether retired ABC journalist **Sam Donaldson's** endorsement of Michael Bloomberg for president was appropriate - his right as a civilian or damaging because of his renown as a journalist. I look forward to hearing from you with your thoughts.

Finally, we keep the grandson of our colleague **Joe Galloway (Email)** and his family in our thoughts and our prayers. Station KIII-TV in Corpus Christi, Texas, broadcast [this story](#) Monday that I spotted on Facebook and wanted to share with you. It leads off: "A 4-year-old is fighting for his life after being diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor. Julian Galloway is currently undergoing chemo and radiation at MD Anderson in Houston."

Paul

## D+4 - The Fifth Day of the Battle



Landing craft heads for Iwo Beach, Mt. Suribachi in the background. Photo/Joe

**Rosenthal**



**Wounded are lifted onto hospital ship off the Iwo Jima coast. Photo/Joe Rosenthal**

**By Hal Buell ([Email](#))**

Chilly winds and steady rain made for muddy island landscapes that frustrated Marines during their first days on Iwo Jima. Japanese fighting from underground added to the frustration; few Marines ever saw a live Japanese soldier, hidden as they were in a network of pillboxes, caves and connecting tunnels. Brilliant Japanese preparations accounted for Marine casualties to rise at a frightening rate.

Joe Rosenthal photographed what he could. Marines used mostly flame throwers, satchel charges and grenades to move forward only a few hundred yards a day, sometimes less.

Finally on D+4, February 23, the fifth day of the battle, the weather relented. Early morning opened cold and rainy but by mid-morning Iwo turned warmer and brighter. A welcome sun, filtered by thin clouds, created a photographer's light; shadows were gentle, detail not hidden in the dark areas created by brilliant light.

Joe never said whether he noted the favorable conditions. He simply and instinctively adjusted his Speed Graphic to the proper exposure and set off to make a picture of Secretary of Navy James Forrestal. The Secretary and Marine General Holland "Howling Mad" Smith were aboard a small vessel viewing the invasion's progress. On his way Joe heard radio chatter about plans for a Marine platoon to take the top of Suribachi. That will be important, he thought, if they succeed. He made a picture of the VIPs then headed for shore to pursue what he hoped would be a photograph of Marines in command of Iwo's high ground, the summit of Suribachi-yama. "A marker of the battle's progress," he called it.





**Pvt. Bob Campbell (right) and Joe Rosenthal take a rest as the climb Mt. Suribachi. AP Photo**

At the base of Suribachi, Joe met Pvt. Bob Campbell, an acquaintance from San Francisco, now a Marine photographer, and Sgt. Bill Genaust, a Marine motion picture cameraman. The trio's 550-foot ascent was slowed by interruptions. A not-so-distant shout of "Fire in the hole," followed by an explosion or an occasional chatter of a machine gun, prompted momentary scrambles for cover. But nothing more. No Japanese sighted. Navy guns from offshore and aircraft bombers had stilled or eliminated enemy activity. The Marine platoon, it turned out, reached the top of the volcano with little or no resistance.

Part way up Suribachi, the trio encountered Sgt. Lou Lowery, a photographer for Leatherneck magazine, on his way down. The Marines put up a flag, he told them, and he made pictures ... and there was a firefight with Japanese hiding in a bunker... no Marine casualties, the few Japanese eliminated. It's a helluva view from up there, he said.

So briefed by Lowery, the trio continued their climb, Joe wondering what he would photograph. After all, a flag was up.

In an interview later he recalled a moment close to Suribachi's summit:

"I was coming up toward the brow and I was probably 200 feet away. I stopped because emerging over the edge of the mountain I could see the small flag waving on a very long pole ... and it gave me a jolt ... and I get it now ... it was our flag ... the American flag ... to think of what went on, on D-Day and subsequent days in order to get that flag there ... and then I had to take myself in hand again ... get some of that objectivity ... some of that ... get the job done. And I went up, not knowing what kind of a picture I might get."

Joe and his companions climbed over the edge of the volcano to join the Marine contingent.

**Tomorrow: A Picture for all time.**

## **Bloomberg endorsement by Sam Donaldson - Yea or Nay?**

**Norm Abelson** ([Email](#)) - I was kind of surprised by negative reactions to retired journalist Sam Donaldson openly supporting a presidential candidate.

Would it have been more acceptable if he had been hired to work on his choice's campaign? But more than that, for heaven's sake, Donaldson is retired. Did he sign an oath never again to express his opinion? He assures us that while he was an active reporter he never signed on to any party and took care to remain neutral.

Newspapers name their choices editorially (sometimes signed) for president and many other political offices. Non-retired feature and op ed columnists often let it be known whom they favor. Journalists interviewed on TV have more than once advanced the causes of particular candidates. Former journalists have moved from reporter to political positions and after leaving politics became favorite outspoken media sources, e.g., David Axelrod.

Tom Jones of Poynter worries that Donaldson's statement might "damage" the "integrity" of the press. I'm not concerned that the press is that fragile.

The bottom line is whether this is much of an issue at all? I don't think so.

(Full disclosure: After I left The AP, I worked as a U.S. Senate press secretary, and after retirement participated in partisan political campaigns.)

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**Brian Bland (Email)** - I'm not sure whether long-retired newsman Sam Donaldson's endorsement of Bloomberg "hurts journalism," given that Donaldson has voiced his opinion on current events for some time now. I do think that candidate Bloomberg has a strong conflict of interest due to his ownership of a large, prosperous and (so far) respected news organization that is still trying to figure out how to cover his run for the White House. I think that conflict should be part of the ongoing reporting on Bloomberg's candidacy.

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**Mike Holmes (Email)** - Regarding the Sam Donaldson endorsement of Michael Bloomberg, two thoughts: 1) It's his right but a bad idea, only reinforcing skeptics who don't believe journalists try to be objective; and 2) Nobody will vote based on what Sam Donaldson thinks.

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**John Willis (Email)** - Sam Donaldson is long retired from ABC News, and as a private citizen I think he can endorse the candidate of his choice. It has no bearing or reflection on anything journalistically, in my opinion.

Half the electorate probably has no idea of who Sam is or was, since he was not one of the talking heads on the cable shows who opine on pols all day and all night, ad nauseam.

Since Sam was a broadcast journalist never affiliated with Fox News, OAN, NewsMax, The Drudge Report, Breitbart or the like, it will automatically make those who believe Trump unlikely to consider Bloomberg as an alternative.

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**John Wylie (Email)** -

*I don't give them hell. I just tell the truth and they think it is hell.*

Harry S. Truman

Sam Donaldson didn't give those he covered hell. If their public service fell short of basic standards, he simply reported the facts, gave the subject a fair chance to reply, and let his viewers decide. That's called good journalism.

As he noted in his endorsement as quoted, "After a lifetime of reporting the news, **now is the time for me to stand up as a private citizen** and do everything in my power to help defeat Donald Trump and elect Mike Bloomberg the next President of the United States." (emphasis added).

I'm glad he did. He knows first-hand how our system is supposed to work. He is now in a position where he is not paid to be a neutral observer, and those who see or hear his words can judge whether they trust his observations. When he took an oath of neutrality, it was for his work as a newsman. If he violated that oath while in that role, his critics have a case. I'm not aware that they do, or have even tried to make one. But he is now a private citizen who has decades of journalism experience behind him in the specific area about which he is opining. That means he not only has the right to express his views, but that those views deserve the chance to be heard in the open marketplace of ideas.

Unless we want to turn news coverage over to Artificial Intelligence to gather and write as we already have to select how, when and to whom to distribute, we need to be careful about purity tests.

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### **And this from The Hill:**

Brit Hume, who once served as a White House correspondent for ABC News, said he "never thought" he would see his former colleague Sam Donaldson endorse a political candidate after the longtime journalist announced his support for 2020 Democratic White House hopeful Michael Bloomberg.

Donaldson, 86, served as ABC's White House correspondent from 1977 to 1989, before Hume, who is currently with Fox News, was awarded the job. Donaldson is best known for his clashes with former President Reagan during his two terms in the 1980s.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.



# Opinion: When a Picture Is Worth a Thousand Tears



**Nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc, center, fleeing her South Vietnamese village in 1972. She had ripped off her burning clothes after the village was hit with napalm. Photo: Nick Ut/Associated Press**

**By Margaret Renkl**

**Contributing Opinion Writer**

**The New York Times**

NASHVILLE - On June 8, 1972, Nick Ut, a Vietnamese photographer working for The Associated Press, shot a now-iconic photo of children fleeing napalm mistakenly dropped on their village by South Vietnamese forces. At the center of the photo is a naked 9-year-old girl named Phan Thi Kim Phuc. She is in agony; her skin appears to be melting. None of the helmeted soldiers in the background are looking at the children. Only the photographer sees her pain.

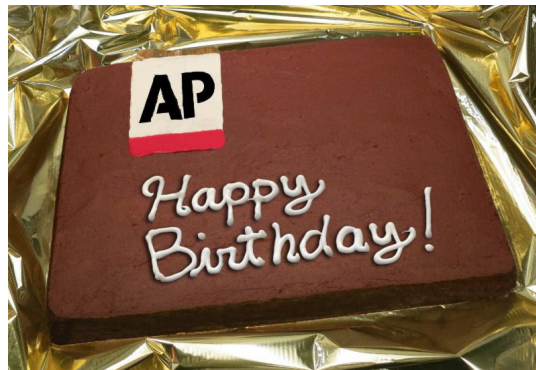
Now we all see her pain. The photo, which was published by The Times and other newspapers three days later, shocked readers with its clarion depiction of the costs of war. The photo won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973. Later that year, U.S. forces withdrew from Vietnam. Whether or not the photo is directly related to the withdrawal, at the

very least it fed the growing antiwar sentiment in this country and may have hastened the end of the war.

"Napalm Girl" belongs to a tradition of photojournalism that furthers the cause of social justice. There's David Jackson's 1955 image of 14-year-old Emmett Till in his coffin, murdered for being black in Jim Crow Mississippi. Sam Nzima's 1976 photo of a teenager carrying a lifeless child in his arms during the Soweto uprising in South Africa. Kevin Carter's 1993 photo of a starving Sudanese child being watched by a vulture. Nilufer Demir's 2015 photo of a 3-year-old lying facedown in the surf, drowned with his mother and brother in a desperate attempt to flee the war in Syria. John Moore's 2018 photo of a terrified 2-year-old Honduran child seeking asylum with her mother at the southern U.S. border. These photographs clarify a particular cultural moment; they distill the vast churn of history into a single image so searing it returns in your dreams to make you weep in the dark.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Richard Chady, Sibby Christensen, Lee Siegel.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

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## Stories of interest

## ***Bloomberg News's Dilemma: How to Cover a Boss Seeking the Presidency*** (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

John Micklethwait, the editor in chief of Bloomberg News, walked into his Washington bureau on a Friday morning in December with a daunting task: explaining to his political reporters how to cover a presidential campaign when the boss is a candidate.

Addressing roughly 100 journalists spilling out of a glass-walled conference room, Mr. Micklethwait said Michael R. Bloomberg's entry into the Democratic race had not changed his commitment to skeptical coverage. "We always knew it would be tough," he told the group. "But we are actually showing what we are: an independent news organization."

Not every reporter was reassured. Rival candidates had attacked the journalists' coverage as biased; some sources had stopped returning calls. One reporter said the bureau's credibility was at stake, citing Mr. Micklethwait's public memo that Bloomberg News would refrain from "investigating" Mr. Bloomberg and his Democratic competitors.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen, Mike Feinsilber.

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## ***Fast facts about the newspaper industry's financial struggles as McClatchy files for bankruptcy*** (Pew)

BY ELIZABETH GRIECO

Newspaper chain McClatchy filed for bankruptcy Thursday, the latest bad headline for the struggling U.S. newspaper industry. McClatchy owns media companies in 14 states, including the Kansas City Star, Miami Herald, Charlotte Observer, Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Sacramento Bee. Amid the company's bankruptcy filing, here are some fast facts about the newspaper industry's recent financial struggles, based on

previously published Pew Research Center surveys and analyses of data from Editor and Publisher, the Alliance for Audited Media, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

U.S. newspaper circulation fell in 2018 to its lowest level since 1940, the first year with available data. Total daily newspaper circulation (print and digital combined) was an estimated 28.6 million for weekday and 30.8 million for Sunday in 2018. Those numbers were down 8% and 9%, respectively, from the previous year. Both figures are now below their lowest recorded levels, though weekday circulation first passed this threshold in 2013.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mike Holmes.

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## ***'Truth is not the goal.' Facebook 'news' site admits to misleading 50,000 NC followers*** (The News & Observer)

By HAYLEY FOWLER

College students, Alec Baldwin or a Russian bot?

A Facebook page called North Carolina Breaking News describes itself as "satire/parody" that wants to help President Donald Trump win re-election this fall.

The page, which has garnered more than 50,000 followers since it was created Jan. 24, posts a mix of real and fake news. Now it has some people - including police in one North Carolina city - trying to parse fact from fiction.

The administrators of the page introduced themselves as "Adrik" in a since-deleted post with a picture of Baldwin, the actor.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Dennis Conrad.

# Today in History - Feb. 18, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 18, the 49th day of 2020. There are 317 days left in the year.

## **Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 18, 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic national convention; five were convicted of violating the Anti-Riot Act of 1968 (those convictions were later reversed).

## **On this date:**

In 1546, Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation in Germany, died in Eisleben.

In 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1861, Jefferson Davis was sworn in as provisional president of the Confederate States of America in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time (after being published in Britain and Canada).



In 1930, photographic evidence of Pluto (now designated a "dwarf planet") was discovered by Clyde W. Tombaugh at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona.

In 1943, Madame Chiang Kai-shek (chang ky-shehk), wife of the Chinese leader, addressed members of the Senate and then the House, becoming the first Chinese national to address both houses of the U.S. Congress.

In 1983, 13 people were shot to death at a gambling club in Seattle's Chinatown in what became known as the Wah Mee Massacre. (Two men were convicted of the killings and are serving life sentences; a third was found guilty of robbery and assault.)

In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, at the Winter Olympic Games in Norway, U.S. speedskater Dan Jansen finally won a gold medal, breaking the world record in the 1,000 meters.

In 1997, astronauts on the space shuttle Discovery completed their tune-up of the Hubble Space Telescope after 33 hours of spacewalking; the Hubble was then released using the shuttle's crane.

In 2001, veteran FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen was arrested, accused of spying for Russia. (Hanssen later pleaded guilty to espionage and attempted espionage and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.) Auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500; he was 49.

In 2003, an arson attack involving two South Korean subway trains in the city of Daegu claimed 198 lives. (The arsonist was sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2004.)

Ten years ago: In Austin, Texas, software engineer A. Joseph Stack III crashed his single-engine plane into a building containing IRS offices, killing one person besides himself. President Barack Obama personally welcomed the Dalai Lama to the White House, but kept the get-together off camera and low key in an attempt to avoid inflaming tensions with China.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, hosting a White House summit on countering violent extremism, said Muslims in the U.S. and around the world had a

responsibility to fight a misconception that terrorist groups like the Islamic State were speaking for them.

One year ago: Scientist Wallace Smith Broecker, who raised early alarms about climate change and popularized the term "global warming," died at a New York hospital at the age of 87. President Donald Trump urged Venezuela's military to support opposition leader Juan Guaido (gwy-DOH'), and warned that soldiers would find "no safe harbor" if they continued to back President Nicolas Maduro's government. (Despite U.S. pressure including new sanctions on members of Maduro's inner circle, efforts to unseat Maduro have floundered.) New York City officials issued legal guidance saying that the city's existing human rights law protected against hairdo discrimination, allowing New Yorkers to maintain hairstyles "closely associated with their racial, ethnic or cultural identities."

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. John Warner, R-Va., is 93. Singer Yoko Ono is 87. Singer-songwriter Bobby Hart is 81. Singer Irma Thomas is 79. Singer Herman Santiago (Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers) is 79. Actress Jess Walton is 74. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 73. Actress Sinead Cusack is 72. Actress Cybill Shepherd is 70. Singer Randy Crawford is 68. Rock musician Robbie Bachman is 67. Actor John Travolta is 66. Actor John Pankow is 65. Game show host Vanna White is 63. Actress Jayne Atkinson is 61. Actress Greta Scacchi (SKAH'-kee) is 60. Actor Matt Dillon is 56. Rock musician Tommy Scott (Space) is 56. Rapper Dr. Dre is 55. Actress Molly Ringwald is 52. Actress Sarah Brown is 45. Country musician Trevor Rosen (Old Dominion) is 45. Actor Ike Barinholtz is 43. Actor Kristoffer Polaha is 43. Singer-musician Sean Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 43. Actor Tyrone Burton is 41. Rock-singer musician Regina Spektor is 40. Opera singer Isabel Leonard is 38. Roots rock musician Zac Cockrell (Alabama Shakes) is 32. Actor Shane Lyons is 32. Actress Sara Sutherland is 32. Actress Maiara Walsh is 32.

**Thought for Today: "Opinion is that exercise of the human will which helps us to make a decision without information." [-] John Erskine, American author and educator (1879-1951).**

## 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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