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Connecting - February 19, 2020

1 message

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The American flag is raised on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, by six Marines. Photo/Joe Rosenthal.

Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 19th day of February 2020,

"I could only hope that it turned out the way that it looked in the finder."

AP photographer **Joe Rosenthal** was speaking of the moment on the island of Iwo Jima, just after he snapped the photo of six Marines hoisting the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945.

In today's third installment of the story behind one of history's most acclaimed photographs, 75 years ago this month, our Connecting colleague **Hal Buell** - longtime director of AP Photos - tells about that moment in time.

Connecting also brings you a video produced by AP Corporate Archives - "Conspicuous Gallantry: Joe Rosenthal and the Flag-Raising on Iwo Jima," that was

shown to the AP Board of Directors on October 25, 2017. Click [here](#) to view the video.

"I tried to build this short film around Joe's oral history interview, conducted by former head of AP Photos, Hal Buell, on Aug. 15, 1997," said **Valerie Komor** ([Email](#)), director of Corporate Archives. "Joe was a plain-spoken man. Often, he did not finish his sentences. Or he left out words. But he did not trouble himself. He just said what happened. His lucidity and humble bravery, it always seemed to me, reflect the gallantry of those who fought and died on that hellish island. He could see them, his camera could find them, because he was one of them."

Rosenthal said of the photo: "What I see behind the photo is what it took to get up to those heights the kind of devotion to their country that those young men had, and the sacrifices they made. I take some gratification in being a little part of what the U.S. stands for."

Today's issue brings you the memories of two colleagues, **Chris Carola** and **Joe Galloway**, relating to the battle.

Have a great day!

Paul

D+4 Suribachi Summit



Joe Rosenthal stands on his makeshift platform to photograph Marines in Gung Ho fashion. Photo/Pvt. Bob Campbell

By HAL BUELL ([Email](#))

"What's going on, fellas?"

A natural question posed in unnatural conditions, inside the summit of Iwo Jima's extinct volcano. Joe Rosenthal hoped a response would suggest a picture to mark progress, painful as it was, of the Iwo Jima invasion. Marine casualties already numbered in the thousands on this odiferous (sulfur stink) 8 ½ square miles of rock and mud on a vast ocean. Invasion plans had forecast victory in a few days, an estimate now abandoned. Victory? Weeks away. Maybe longer.

Joe's question was directed at Marines fiddling around with a large American flag. The response set his photographer's mind in action:

We're gonna put up this bigger flag ... twice the size of the flag now up, they said ... the commander on the beach ordered it ... wants everyone on the island to see it ... didn't want the first flag to end up with Washington VIPs ... that flag stays with the

Marines. We're gonna put up this flag, this bigger flag ... at the same time that other one comes down ... never want Suribachi to be without Old Glory up here.

Made sense to Joe. But what's the picture? Campbell chose a spot where he could get the two flags in one photo - one going up, the other coming down. Nice picture, Joe thought. But chancy. Like a football game. You never know which way the play will run.

Joe selected a straight-on view. He moved back down the slope of the volcano, far enough to make certain the flag wouldn't rise out of the camera's frame. He piled up a couple of Japanese sandbags and a few stones to give himself some height ... "after all I was built close to the ground"... enough height to reduce but not eliminate the foreground rubble. The photographer's light remained, still soft, still producing gentle shadows but bright enough for a rich exposure. He set his camera loaded with Agfa film at 1/400th of a second between f8 and f11. He readied his position. Marines tied the flag to a pole retrieved from Suribachi's shattered Japanese outpost. Bill Genaust showed up with his movie camera. He took a position to Joe's right, a bit forward, within arm's reach.

"I'm not in your way am I, Joe?" Joe turned, looked at Genaust. "No, it's all right...Hey, there she goes." Rosenthal and Genaust were caught slightly off guard as six Marines straining at the weight pushed the pole upward. In seconds the pole and its flag arced from left to right and settled straight up.

"I swung my camera around close to my face and held it, watching through the view finder to see when I could estimate the peak of the picture and Bill, of course, he started his camera right away. I could only hope that it turned out the way that it looked in the finder."



Marines celebrate flag raising in Gung Ho style on Mt. Suribachi. Photo/Joe Rosenthal

Joe wasn't finished. He made another frame of Marines tying down the flag. He called to others, shouting above the ever-present ocean winds. Hey, get under the flag, wave your weapons, shout, give it the old Gung Ho. Marines laughed. We're not Hollywood Marines. But they cooperated and Joe made the picture. Some joked, how do we get prints? All this time Genaust was grinding away with his film camera. Campbell, who made the two flags photo, moved behind Joe as he made the Gung Ho shot.



Joe Rosenthal poses on Mt. Suribachi. Invasion beach is far below. Marine Corps Photo

Joe spent a few minutes looking over the scene. Campbell made a personal picture of Joe at the edge of the volcano, a view of the invasion beach far below. Rosenthal checked his watch, decided it was time to head back down the mountain and make his way to the Eldorado. A floatplane, as it had every day, would carry his film to Guam for developing, processing, censorship and distribution.

Tomorrow: Photo Impact on the home front.

Family connections to Iwo Jima battle



On left is Charles Carola Jr., on right is his younger brother Edward Carola, both of The Bronx, N.Y. Family believes it was taken in Southern California, circa late 1944.

Chris Carola (Email) - With the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima on Wednesday, I'm looking forward to seeing how AP commemorates not only one of the most storied battles in U.S. military history but also the creation of what many consider to be the most reproduced - and famous - photograph in history: Joe Rosenthal's image of six Americans raising the flag atop Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945.

For anyone interested in learning just about everything there is to know about Joe and his enduring photo, I recommend "Uncommon Valor, Common Virtue," Hal Buell's excellent 2006 book on the flag raising photo. I believe no one alive knows more about the subject than Hal.

I actually have a couple of serendipitous connections to the Iwo Jima battle.

Three years ago, my family contacted for the first time a Carola family living in Connecticut. My father was an only child whose parents split up when he was very young. Raised in Saratoga County, N.Y., he never mentioned having cousins on his father's side, who hailed from New York City. It turned out the relatives were my paternal grandfather's nephew, and his family.

We learned from the Connecticut Carolas via email that Charlie Carola, my grandfather's brother, had three sons: Charlie Jr., and twins Tom and Ed. All three joined the Marines during World War II. A quick Google search revealed that Charlie Jr. died in June 1945 of wounds suffered on Iwo Jima. Through the help of a couple of my WWII researcher contacts from my time with AP in Albany, I received more details on Charlie Jr.'s service.

He enlisted in September 1942, became a Marine paratrooper, and served in the brutal Solomons campaign (Guadalcanal, Bougainville) before being transferred to the 28th Regiment in the USMC's 5th Division, which fought at Iwo Jima. It was members of the 28th who raised the two flags on Suribachi, including the second one that appears in Joe Rosenthal's photo. It's possible Charlie Carola knew some of those Marines.

According to the records provided by the WWII researchers, he suffered a gunshot wound to his torso on March 14, 1945. He eventually was transferred to a Navy hospital in California, where he died from an infection. He's buried in a cemetery in New Jersey, where his family lived for a time before resettling in the Bronx.

In July 2017 members of my family traveled to Connecticut to meet our newly found relatives for the first time. That's where we met Ed Carola, Charlie's younger brother. Tom, Ed's twin, died in the 1970s. Ed told us his brother Tom survived several Pacific battles, while Ed himself was wounded in the Marshall Islands in early 1944. In early 2019, not long after turning 94 and around the time of the 75th anniversary of his wounding, Ed was diagnosed with terminal cancer. Given just a few weeks to live, he died that following October. He was one tough Marine to the very end.

For someone with a lifelong interest in military history, especially WWII history, it came as quite a surprise to learn that there were Carolas who fought in the Pacific,

including one who served on Iwo Jima with the outfit that raised the flags on Suribachi. I spent a total of 34 years with AP, and I always make sure when people are discussing the Iwo Jima flag-raising photo to mention that Joe Rosenthal was an AP photographer at that time.

The other connection to Iwo Jima involves a photographer who knew Joe Rosenthal. Among the other photographs on the top of Suribachi that eventful day was Army combat photographer George Burns, who had worked for the Albany Times Union before the war. Stories have been written about how Burns (a photographer for the Army's Yank magazine) also snapped the same photo from the same spot as Joe during the now-famous second flag raising, but Burns' images apparently never made it stateside and have yet to be found.

Burns went on to cover other battles, and after the Japanese official surrender on Sept. 2, 1945, he was in Tokyo when word came that former Japanese prime minister Hideki Tojo was going to be arrested under orders issued by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Burns, AP photographer Charles Gorry and several war correspondents were already at Tojo's home when a five-man U.S. Army intelligence unit arrived on the scene to take Tojo into custody. Tojo refused to come out. A gunshot was heard, and two of the American officers kicked in the front door and went inside - with Burns right behind them.

Tojo had shot himself in the chest but only nicked his heart. One of the world's most reviled wartime leaders would survive his suicide attempt, thanks in large part to the actions of one of the U.S. intelligence officers who burst into the home: Lt. Jack Wilpers, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y. Tojo was later convicted of war crimes and executed in 1948.

Burns' most famous photo from the scene shows Tojo prone on a small couch with his white shirt covered in blood, while Wilpers points his sidearm at the bleeding ex-prime minister. That image was transmitted worldwide. AP's Gorry also photographed the wounded Tojo, with two seasoned AP war correspondents - Murlin Spencer and Russell Brines - on the scene providing the reporting that appeared in hundreds of U.S. newspapers.

Wilpers joined the CIA after the war and never talked in detail to a reporter about Tojo's capture - until I interviewed him in early September 2010 after a chance encounter with Jack's oldest son on a Massachusetts beach while on vacation. My story on Wilpers and his role in Tojo's capture ran on AP's national and international wires in time for the incident's 65th anniversary on Sept. 11, 2010.

One of the details Jack told me was that the Yank photographer (Burns) was right behind him when they busted down Tojo's door. Jack also told me that years after the war he met Burns, then working for another local newspaper, at Saratoga Race Course while Jack was back in his hometown for his annual visit to the track.

Since April 2017, I have been giving one-hour PowerPoint presentations on Jack Wilpers and his role in capturing Tojo. During my talks at local museums, libraries and historical organizations, I use Jack's wartime letters and photographs - plus contemporary news accounts and images produced by AP, Yank magazine and other sources - to tell the story of how a bookie's son from Saratoga played a key role in capturing Tojo, thus ensuring he would survive to face a war crimes trial.

Recalling the eve of handing Iwo Jima back to Japanese control

Joe Galloway ([Email](#)) - In early 1965 the U.S. Air Force, on the eve of handing the island of Iwo Jima back to Japanese control, invited a small party of American and Japanese journalists to a two-day tour of the island.

From the landing beaches to the top of Mount Suribachi to some of the still-blocked caves filled with the remains of Japanese soldiers who chose death over surrender we walked and drove all over the island.

We found U.S. Navy landing craft still rusting away in the surf off the black volcanic sand on the landing beaches. Japanese pillboxes with artillery pieces still inside looked down the throats of those brave Marines who stumbled ashore.

I walked down to the water's edge and then tried to run up the steep slope in the black sand. It was almost impossible even though I carried nothing heavier than a camera. The Marines did it with 50 to 70 pounds on their backs and a 10-pound M1 Garand in their hands.

Inland the cement landing strip had vent pipes all over it, allowing sulphurous steam to vent into the air. Suribachi may be dormant or dead but the whole island was volcanic and very much still alive and venting.

That evening after dinner we gathered in a USAF club for a few drinks. For two Japanese reporters it was a few too many. They staggered outside to gaze at the stars and promptly fell into an abandoned roofless bunker. They dropped 20 feet or so to a concrete floor resulting in a broken leg and a broken pelvis. The Air Force flew them off the island for urgent medical care.

Many years later my dinner partner at the home of a Marine general was a 90-year-old Marine veteran of the Iwo Jima battle. He told a fascinating story of landing not on the main landing beach but instead on the other side of Suribachi where he and his unit faced a 200-foot-high cliff. In silence and darkness they climbed that cliff face hoping to take the Japanese by surprise in the rear. Near the top the Marines were discovered and the Japanese opened up on them. My dinner partner was severely wounded but hung in a climbing rope until his unit suppressed the Japanese fire. Then he was lowered to the narrow beach and after a long wait was transferred to a Navy hospital ship offshore. Once loaded with other wounded Marines the ship sailed for the Philippines and then to Honolulu and then to San Francisco where the wounded were transferred to a train for the journey on to Washington DC and Bethesda Naval Hospital. It was more than a month before that veteran finally reached a non-moving hospital bed and proper treatment of his wounds.

Connecting mailbox

More thoughts on endorsements by former journalists

Malcolm Barr Sr. (Email) - I'm with Norm Abelson, a fellow U.S. Senate press secretary, it appears. I accepted my Senate appointment immediately after leaving the AP (1970). While remaining neutral in my years as a journalist with the AP and newspapers in three countries, I'm now 22 years into retirement and cannot believe I should be expected to carry my neutrality through the remainder of my life. I, too, agree that this is a non-issue. Go, Bloomberg, go!

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Bob Kimball (Email) - I agree with those who say that making public Sam Donaldson's political leanings matters little. As John Willis noted, half the electorate probably has no idea who Donaldson is or was. He's from a different era. In fact, he spoke to one of my journalism classes at American University - 46 years ago this spring!

Sandy Johnson and family at her finale as National Press Foundation president



Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - My finale as National Press Foundation president; retirement around the corner!

This family photo was taken after the National Press Foundation's journalism awards dinner last week. It shows, from left: Tessa Carelli, Sam Raasch, husband Chuck Raasch, me, Will Raasch, Reena Magsarili Raasch.

In the coming weeks I am onboarding my successor, Sonni Efron, and hope to exit March 6 (ish). First up: trip to Washington Nationals spring training in Florida!

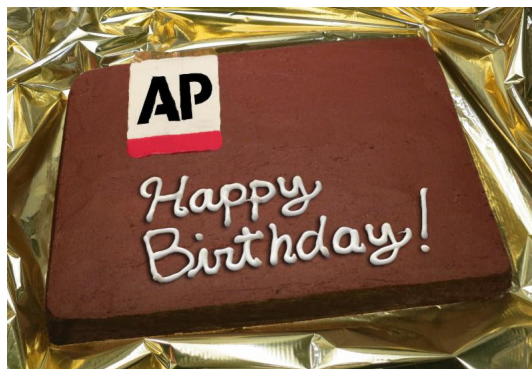
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Introducing a new citizen



Andy Lippman ([Email](#)) - Here is a photo of me (right) with Oscar Garcia and his wife Virginia two hours after he passed his citizenship test Tuesday and came in to share the news with his classmates. He's the 61st person I've coached to prepare for the test while conducting citizenship classes at The Puente Learning Center in the Boyle Heights section of Los Angeles.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Angie Lamoli Silvestry - lamoli@bellsouth.net

Welcome to Connecting



Tom Graves - Tom@tomgraves.com

Stories of interest

'It wasn't enjoyable at all' - How a civilian photographer shot some of the bloodiest battles of WWII (Task and Purpose)



Stanley Troutman lets curious children inspect his camera while on Saipan, an island in the Pacific, during World War II. (Courtesy of Gayle Rindge)

By Hillary Davis, Daily Pilot, Costa Mesa, Calif.

In the waning hours of World War II, Stanley Troutman made a rebellious decision to trade one historic scene for another.

It involved ditching Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who was about to sign the Japanese surrender to end the hostilities on Sept. 2, 1945. Troutman, a civilian photographer in the American war picture pool, had a choice spot for the ceremony on the USS Missouri.

Then one of his colleagues told him there was a chance to travel to Nagasaki. They would be the first American civilians to document the aftermath of the atomic bomb that had destroyed the Japanese city nearly a month before.

As Troutman told a Corona del Mar High School student for a living-history project in 2018, MacArthur had grounded correspondents' planes because he thought photos showing the ruins of Hiroshima, the first Japanese city hit by an atomic bomb, credited the Army Air Forces with winning the war that he had poured himself into. Some of those photos had been Troutman's.

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

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Comedy Returns to the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Will Trump? (New York Times)

By Michael M. Grynbaum

Live from Washington, it's Saturday night!

Kenan Thompson, the longest-tenured "Saturday Night Live" cast member, will serve as M.C. of this year's White House Correspondents' Association dinner, the annual media jamboree that has become a flash point on free expression in the Trump era.

The dinner, to be held April 25, is also set to feature a repeat performance by Hasan Minhaj, the former "Daily Host" personality and current host of "Patriot Act" on Netflix. Mr. Minhaj was the featured entertainer at the 2017 edition of the event.

The lineup, announced on Tuesday by the Correspondents' Association, is a return to comedy after last year's more sober performance by Ron Chernow, the historian and Alexander Hamilton biographer, who lectured on the history of presidential ire toward the news media.

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

Today in History - Feb. 19, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2020. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 19, 1945, Operation Detachment began during World War II as some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful month-long battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution.

In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr, accused of treason, was arrested in the Mississippi Territory, in present-day Alabama. (Burr was acquitted at trial.)

In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor.

In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

In 1934, the U.S. Army Air Corps began delivering mail after President Franklin D. Roosevelt canceled private contracts that had come under suspicion. (The hastily arranged, ill-equipped military flights claimed the lives of a dozen pilots, sparking a public outcry before they were dropped several months later.)

In 1942, during World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the relocation and internment of people of Japanese ancestry, including U.S.-born citizens. Imperial Japanese warplanes raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

In 1968, the children's program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," created by and starring Fred Rogers, made its network debut on National Educational Television, a forerunner of PBS, beginning a 31-season run.

In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved, 83-11, the Genocide Convention, an international treaty outlawing "acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group," nearly 37 years after the pact was first submitted for ratification.

In 1997, Deng Xiaoping (dung shah-oh-ping), the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

In 2003, an Iranian military plane carrying 275 members of the elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in southeastern Iran, killing all on board.

In 2006, Israel halted the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money to the Palestinians after Hamas took control of the Palestinian parliament.

In 2008, an ailing Fidel Castro resigned the Cuban presidency after nearly a half-century in power; his brother Raul was later named to succeed him.

Ten years ago: In a televised 13-minute statement, golfer Tiger Woods admitted infidelity and acknowledged receiving therapy. The FBI concluded that Army scientist Bruce Ivins acted alone in the 2001 anthrax mailings that killed five people, and formally closed the case. Pope Benedict XVI approved sainthood for Mother Mary MacKillop, who became Australia's first saint.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama urged delegates from 63 countries at a summit on violent extremism to "confront the warped ideology" espoused by terror groups, particularly using Islam to justify violence.

One year ago: Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said he would again seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020. President Donald Trump directed the Pentagon to develop plans for a new Space Force within the Air Force, accepting less than the full-fledged department he had wanted. Designer Karl Lagerfeld, whose creations at Chanel and Fendi had an unprecedented impact on the entire fashion industry, died in Paris. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg returned to the Supreme Court bench, eight weeks after surgery for lung cancer. Former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Don Newcombe, who was one of the first black players in the major leagues and went on to win the Rookie of the Year, MVP and Cy Young awards, died at 92 after a long illness.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Smokey Robinson is 80. Actress Carlin Glynn is 80. Former Sony Corp. Chairman Howard Stringer is 78. Singer Lou Christie is 77. Actor Michael Nader is 75. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath, Heaven and Hell) is 72. Actor Stephen Nichols is 69. Author Amy Tan is 68. Actor Jeff Daniels is 65. Rock singer-musician Dave Wakeling is 64. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 63. Actor Ray Winstone is 63. Actor Leslie David Baker is 62. NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is 61. Britain's Prince Andrew is 60. Tennis Hall of Famer Hana Mandlikova is 58. Singer Seal is 57. Actress Jessica Tuck is 57. Country musician Ralph McCauley (Wild Horses) is 56. Rock musician Jon Fishman (Phish) is 55. Actress Justine Bateman is 54. Actor Benicio Del Toro is 53. Actress Bellamy Young is 50. Rock musician Daniel Adair is 45. Pop singer-actress Haylie Duff is 35. Actress Arielle Kebbel is 35. Christian rock musician Seth Morrison (Skillet) is 32. Actor Luke Pasqualino is 30. Actress Victoria Justice is 27. Actor David (dah-VEED') Mazouz (TV: "Gotham") is 19. Actress Millie Bobby Brown is 16.

Thought for Today: "Passion and prejudice govern the world; only under the name of reason." [-] John Wesley, English theologian (1703-1791).

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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