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Connecting - February 21, 2020

1 message

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Connecting

February 21, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 21st day of February 2020,

Today's Connecting brings a conclusion to **Hal Buell's** compelling account of the story behind **Joe Rosenthal's** photo of the flag raising at Iwo Jima - taken 75 years ago this Sunday - an image that will live for all time.

Some of us may not be around when the 100th anniversary of the battle and Rosenthal's photo is celebrated, but my guess is that it will still - and always - hold a special place in the heart of every American.

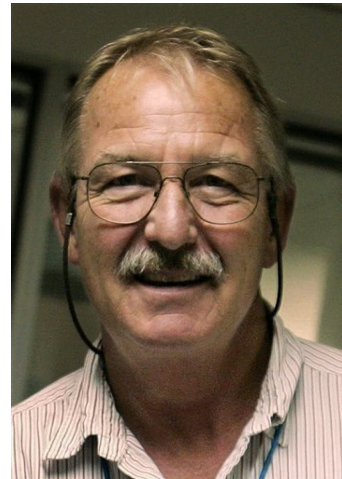
I know my Connecting colleagues join me in thanking Hal for all the work he put into this project. I am sorry, in a way, that it had to end.

We bring you once more 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. It is excellent work!

In Thursday's edition, we brought you news that the late **Ed Reinke**, AP photographer in Louisville for more than 25 years, was one of five journalists inducted into the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. The story brought this response from our colleague **Ed Staats** ([Email](#)), who as Louisville chief of bureau hired Ed into the AP:

Ed Reinke was definitely among the very best of a handful of top AP photographers I had the privilege of working with during my 41 years as an AP reporter, bureau chief and headquarters administrator. Not only was he an expert photographer, but a swell person who befriended all. We worked together for 18 years in the Louisville bureau -- about half the time he was in Kentucky after I hired him from the Cincinnati Enquirer. For most of his AP career, he was a go-to photographer for major sporting events, political campaigns and elections. He is very deserving of this significant honor.



Ed Reinke

Hope you have a great weekend!

Paul

D+10 - Guam and Controversy



This is a full frame scan of the 4x5 negative of Joe Rosenthal's iconic Iwo Jima flag-raising photo, taken on Feb. 23, 1945 and preserved in the Associated Press Photo Library in New York City. (AP Photo/Sean Thompson)

By HAL BUELL ([Email](#))

It's early March. Joe Rosenthal arrives in Guam, a stopover while enroute to Hawaii to make preparations for the Okinawa invasion. It's there, in Guam, where he first sees his Suribachi pictures. Fellow correspondents offer congratulations. A tearsheet of the Gung Ho photo is passed around. "Did you pose it, Joe?" He says, he did. Then comes a tearsheet of the flag raising picture. "How about that?" No, didn't pose THAT one. Not a bad photo, though, says Joe...modestly.

Lou Lowery, who photographed the first flag raising, saw the tearsheets earlier, and was aware of the sensation Joe's picture created. He knew that he was the only cameraman on Suribachi when the first flag went up. Where did that Rosenthal photo come from? What happened to his, Lowery's, photo? He conferred with Robert Sherrod of Time-Life, said Joe's photo must have been a setup. Sherrod sent his New York editors a story reporting that the celebrated flag photo was a staged phony. Time radio-broadcast the story.

About then AP headquarters ordered Joe to drop his Okinawa plans and come to New York. Not because of the rising controversy over the picture but because he was to participate in the 7th War Bond sales drive, its poster Logo to be his now beloved photo. In New York he received a bonus of a year's pay, a special award from a journalist's organization, a salary raise, considerable generous treatment and a Pulitzer Prize, the first and only photo so awarded in the same year it was made.

None of that cooled the controversy: Was the photo spontaneous or staged? Despite Joe's report, LIFE said it planned to run Sherrod's story. AP said it would sue LIFE if the story was published.

The dispute moved to Marine headquarters in Washington. LIFE, AP and the Marine commandant met with Norman Hatch who was in charge of Marine photography on Iwo and who was fresh in from the island with battle film for a documentary. Hatch said Genast told him the story of Suribachi and he, Hatch, believed Genast's film would confirm Joe's picture to be spontaneous. The matter was settled. Time apologized and LIFE carried a story with the relevant details.

Still, disbelief persisted. Rumor and hearsay gave birth to a lasting myth clouded the more by the fog of war. One version said Joe carried the pole and the flag up the mountain and, in league with a publicity-seeking Marine Corps, arranged the photo. Another story reported that the first flag was blown up in a firefight, hence a second flag. Yet another insisted that the first flag went up at night, forcing a daylight photo op. Another said truth would never be known because Joe was killed on Iwo.

Joe laughed off most of the stories. But one got under his skin, and even in later life would raise his anger. Myth said Joe picked up a film holder of a slain Marine photographer and claimed the photo as his. That was easily dismissed. Marines used Kodak film, Joe used Agfa. But the challenge to his ethics over the years always upset Joe.

The story - posed or spontaneous - persisted over the years. At one point it was suggested that Joe's Pulitzer Prize be rescinded. That story received vigorous push back and faded away. But the "posed phony" description haunted Joe for most of his life. Repeated telling of the facts failed to wipe out the impression. Articles and books failed to dilute the myth. In 1997, in an AP oral history interview, I asked Joe, "Would you rather someone else had made the photo and saved you a lot of grief.?" His reply:

"Sometimes I lapse into being annoyed...of wondering whether this will not ever pass...but I know I did my job...the job turned out well...and I wonder what if someone else might have made the picture...but no, I can't say I would like that, I can't go that far...no, there's a certain kind of inner happiness of my being able to say I had something to do with that. I can't regret doing it. And to find that I'm even a remote part of that...there's something good about it that outweighs all the annoyance."

Epilogue



General view of the scene at 1998 memorial service for photographers killed in combat. Joe Rosenthal is at center, See text.

By HAL BUELL

Joe Rosenthal's photo of an American flag raised on Mt. Suribachi survived loving attention, sharp criticism and countless parodies for 75 years. Generations passed but Rosenthal and his photo encountered the question: "Did you pose it?" Despite the persistent challenge, the picture became the most famous photograph of World War II and arguably the most published photograph in history.

Books, a shelf full of books, tell the Iwo Jima story. Virtually all devote a chapter or a mention of the image made at 1/400th of a second. Four books tell the story of the picture. The photo inspired four motion pictures, several television documentaries and the mighty bronze statue in Arlington, Va.

A photo by Tom Franklin showing the American flag raised by three New York City firemen over the site of 9-11 was connected immediately to the Rosenthal photo. Both capture the survival of a nation's spirit under monumental stress.



Joe Rosenthal's Iwo Jima photo and Tom Franklin's 9-11 photo.

Another photo was made a half century later and a half world distant from Iwo Jima. In 1995 the National Press Photographer's Association conducted a memorial service at the Arlington statue honoring photographers killed covering combat.

Joe, eldest of the group, walks alongside the Marine Corps commandant, a generation younger than Joe; the President of NPPA, a generation younger still,

walks with the group; behind them Marines, youngest of all, stand at Honor Guard attention. In the background is the statue to remind us of a place nobody knew that became a place nobody would forget.

Seeing the Iwo Jima monument at 10 years old - 'a thrill that lives in my soul'

Doug Tucker ([Email](#)) - John Willis' recollection of first seeing the Marine Iwo Jima Monument as a kid in the '50s tells me we have more in common than just a lifetime in journalism. I was 10 years old in 1957 when my mom took me and my little cousin on a car trip from Oklahoma to the East Coast. We heard the great Sen. Robert Kerr of Oklahoma make a speech in the Senate, which I barely remember, and see the changing of the guard ceremony at the Iwo Jima Monument, a thrill that lives in my soul.

The band music, the young Marines so handsome and sharply drilled in their blue uniforms, the gigantic statue of Joe Rosenthal's immortal photo; the excitement running through the crowd. It was all so overwhelming to a kid. I wanted to sign up with the Marines not when I got old enough, but that very day! I saw, I thought, tears in the eyes of a man nearby.

Today I wonder how hard it must have been for mom not to weep. I knew then, I think, that she had been an Army nurse in the Pacific during the war. It was many years later, however, when I discovered she had been on a hospital ship that received Iwo Jima casualties. What sights and sounds and feelings must have welled up in her heart? No way to know now.

Former Albany AP staffer Chris Carola with Marine Iwo Jima veteran



Francis "Dick" Varone at a Battle of Iwo Jima 75th anniversary gathering held Feb. 19 at the Home Front Café in Altamont, outside Albany. Varone, 94, was a 19-year-old infantry radio operator when he landed on the island with the 5th Division. Members of the division's 28th Regiment raised the two American flags on Mount Suribachi on Feb. 23, 1945, the second of which was immortalized in AP photographer Joe Rosenthal's famous photo. Varone was Carola's Little League coach in their hometown of Mechanicville, N.Y., where Carola went to high school with two of the veteran's children. Carola brought along to the anniversary event his copy of Hal Buell's 2006 book on Rosenthal and the flag raising photo. Varone and the other four Iwo Jima veterans at the event signed an inside image of the iconic photo for Carola. (Shared by Chris Carola ([Email](#)))

A Marine captured the famous Iwo Jima flag-raising on film. The original hasn't been seen in 75 years.

By Michael E. Ruane

The Washington Post

As photographer Joe Rosenthal stood on Mount Suribachi that day, aimed his Speed Graphic at the American flag and froze a moment in history, Marine Corps Sgt. Bill Genaust's movie camera was already rolling.

Genaust filmed the Marines readying the long pipe to which the flag was attached. He caught them jamming the pipe into the ground. And he filmed the three seconds it took to raise it during the World War II battle of Iwo Jima.

He showed the flag caught in the wind. He showed the Marines piling rocks at the base of the pipe so it would stay up. He showed the grit and reality of the event.

Genaust's clip also proved to doubters that Rosenthal's Feb. 23, 1945, picture was not set up. Copies helped the Marines ascertain the identities of the men in the photograph.

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

Marine Corps Museum commemorates Iwo Jima anniversary

TRIANGLE, Va. (AP) - The National Museum of the Marine Corps in northern Virginia is marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The museum along Interstate 95 in Triangle is hosting a series of events and displays the weekend of Feb. 22.

Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams will share his memories of Iwo Jima during a presentation on Feb. 22.

The next day will feature an Iwo Jima-themed Family Day, and a concert by the Marine Band.

The 1945 Battle of Iwo Jima is best known for the photo by The Associated Press' Joe Rosenthal showing six Marines raising the U.S. flag over Mount Suribachi.

The flag captured in Rosenthal's image is on display at the museum. During the commemoration of the anniversary, the museum is displaying an additional flag that was raised over Iwo Jima before Rosenthal took his photo.

Saturday marks 40th anniversary of Miracle on Ice



Dave Zelio (Email) - Saturday, Feb. 22, is the 40th anniversary of the Miracle on Ice in Lake Placid, New York, one of the truly unforgettable moments in U.S. sports history.

Francesca Pitaro in AP Corporate Archives found two AP stories from that remarkable night: A game story written by Fred Brown and an overview/moment story written by Hal Bock - click [here](#).

Barry Wilner, still hard at work in AP Sports, recalls taking the dictation from Brown that night - and how hard it was to hear: "Frank dictated the breaking to me. Could barely hear him with all the noise at the arena. I heard more "USA USA," than I did Frank's words."

The AP interviewed Bock for a podcast this week: click [here](#) (in the Coaching Carousel item, starts at 53 minutes and lasts about 15 minutes.)

Tim Reynolds also wrote an anniversary story out of Lake Placid: click [here](#).

'Incredibly fast' coverage of Germany mass shooting



Forensics officers investigate the scene a shooting in Hanau, Germany, Feb. 20, 2020. (AP Photo/Michael Probst)

By Patrick Maks

When news of a mass shooting in Hanau, Germany, broke on Wednesday night, AP sprung into action to deliver fast all-formats coverage of the attack that left nine people dead.

AP live video was available hours before other outlets.

"Our team in Germany leapt into action late Wednesday after seeing reports about the shooting and then continued working through the night," News Director for Europe and Africa Anna Johnson said. "That quick reaction, resourcefulness and smart news judgment allowed the AP to get text, photos and video, including live video, out to customers incredibly fast."

Read more [here](#).

News outlets bolster local coverage with AP StoryShare

More than two dozen news organizations in New York state are sharing their content and coverage plans using AP StoryShare, a tool developed by The Associated Press to enable stronger collaboration and foster local news.

The project is supported by the Google News Initiative.

Since AP StoryShare launched in January, over 200 stories have been shared by news outlets ranging from The (Albany) Times Union to the (Utica) Observer-Dispatch to the Niagara Gazette. Photos are also being shared between news organizations.

Participating newsrooms can republish each other's stories and photos in their own newspapers with proper credit.

The result has been greater access to local news for communities across New York.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting snapshots



Susan Clark got by with a little help from her many friends as she marked her 75th birthday - which is today - at Susenders in NYC. AP photographer Richard Drew snapped this photo when some 50 of her friends gathered to help celebrate. Susan, a Connecting colleague (in purple blouse in front), is AP's travel coordinator in AP New York headquarters. Her email - sclark@ap.org

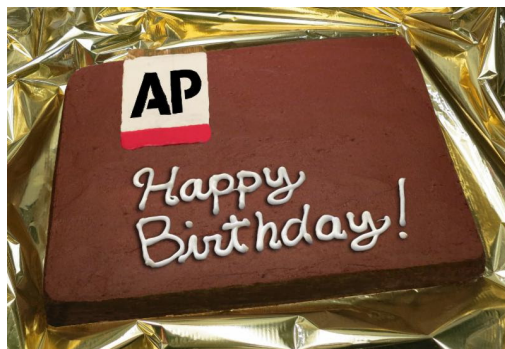
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Chosen main referee for Arizona state soccer match



Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - Had the privilege of being the main referee for an Arizona Interscholastic Association state 3A semi-final soccer match in Gilbert, Ariz., Wednesday evening. With me (holding soccer ball) are two other referees from Tucson and a fourth official from a Phoenix. Yuma Catholic beat Phoenix Country Day School 4-2 in two overtimes to advance to the championship.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Susan Clark - sclark@ap.org

Mark Duncan - markduncan@ameritech.net

On Saturday to...

Dorothy Abernathy- dabernathy@outlook.com

On Sunday to...

Warren Levinson- warrenlevinson@yahoo.com

Stories of interest

Bloomberg News wrestles with coverage of candidate Bloomberg



Democratic presidential candidate and former New York City Mayor Mike Bloomberg gestures as he speaks during campaign event, Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, in Salt Lake City. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) - Three months after Bloomberg News tried to thread the needle with a plan for covering a presidential campaign with company founder Mike Bloomberg as a candidate, its journalists are learning how hard that can be.

Bloomberg's rise in the polls has invited fresh scrutiny of his wealth and his record as a businessman and mayor of New York City. Bloomberg News can only look so close, however, after declaring it would cover his campaign but not investigate it - rules that were extended to his Democratic rivals out of fairness.

For the most part, Bloomberg journalists are doing exactly what the company said it would - for better or worse.

"There are many, many reporters who have to cover their boss, and for most of them, it's a point of pride to beat their competition," said Kelly McBride, head of the Craig Newmark Center for Ethics and Leadership at the journalism think tank Poynter Institute. "In this situation, it's like they're deliberately trying to lose to their competition."

To a certain extent, Bloomberg is relying on its competitors for some of its coverage.

Read more [here](#).

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***Marfa's Answer to the Collapse of Local News:
Coffee and Cocktails*** (New York Times)



The Sentinel is a cafe and cocktail bar that happens to have a newsroom attached to it. Photo/Jessica Lutz for The New York Times

By Sasha von Oldershausen

MARFA, Texas - When Landrie Moore was looking for a venue for her destination wedding, she knew she wanted a space that really reflected life in this small, remote desert town.

Her guests would be coming from as far as Ecuador and England, and Ms. Moore, 35, who works for a boutique hotel firm, hoped to provide a memorable and authentic experience for those travelers. When you visit a new place, she said in a phone interview, "you want to feel like a local."

Which is why she decided to get married mere feet from the office of The Big Bend Sentinel, the region's oldest newspaper (where I worked as a reporter in 2014 and 2015).

Ms. Moore's wedding, in June, was the first of five held last year in the Sentinel, a cafe and cocktail bar in the newspaper's newly renovated office building. The space is perhaps the most visible sign that The Big Bend Sentinel is under new ownership: Maisie Crow and Max Kabat, two transplants from New York, took over last year from Robert and Rosario Halpern, the paper's publishers of 25 years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Cliff Schiappa, Sibby Christensen, Mike Holmes,

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For years he sold the military's version of the Iraq War. Now he's on a mission to convey 'the chaos and absurdity of that experience' (Task & Purpose)

By JAMES CLARK

I spent four years in the Marines as a combat correspondent.

I was a propagandist. Most of the time, the stories I wrote were inconsequential puff pieces. Other times, they were plugs for the current mission, little more than a press release, packed full of "command messages" - the military's version of buzzwords - just with my byline in place of the phrase "official U.S. Marine Corps statement."

While deployed to Afghanistan in 2010, and again in 2011, the words "Afghan-led" wound up in stories I wrote about patrols where few if any Afghan National Army soldiers were present. In the rare cases they were actually there, they weren't leading anybody. Civil Affairs projects where bags of cash were handed over to pay for beautification projects in cities still reeling from recent battles between Marines and the Taliban were billed as dollars well spent. Articles about IED strikes, vehicle rollovers that resulted in deaths, and civilian casualties were rarely published - at least not on a website ending with .gov or .mil.

I rarely had a hand in anything that I'd recognize today as journalism. During that time I took comfort in the belief that anyone who actually read those stories would be able to sift through the bullshit to see the polished turd underneath.

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

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Open-records laws are often violated with impunity due to lax laws and agencies' ability to use taxpayer-paid lawyers (Rural Blog)

By AL CROSS

Sometimes not much happens when government officials and agencies violate a state's open-records laws, the National Freedom of Information Coalition says in its latest white paper, "Blueprint to Transparency: Non-compliance and Lack of Enforcement of Open Records Laws in Select U.S. States."

The paper looks at the varying enforcement mechanisms by state governments, including criminal penalties, civil penalties and "fee shifting," the disadvantage that record-seekers face in legal battles with government agencies that don't incur hourly legal fees because they have in-house attorneys.

The paper, which includes case studies of several states, makes five recommendations for improving open-records laws and policies to enforce them:

Read more [here](#).

Today in History - February 21, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Feb. 21, the 52nd day of 2020. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 21, 1975, former Attorney General John N. Mitchell and former White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman were sentenced to 2 1/2 to 8 years in prison for their roles in the Watergate cover-up (each ended up serving a year and a-half).

On this date:

In 1613, Mikhail Romanov, 16, was unanimously chosen by Russia's national assembly to be czar, beginning a dynasty that would last three centuries.

In 1862, Nathaniel Gordon became the first and only American slave-trader to be executed under the U.S. Piracy Law of 1820 as he was hanged in New York.

In 1945, during the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima, the escort carrier USS Bismarck Sea was sunk by kamikazes with the loss of 318 men.

In 1958, the USS Gudgeon (SS-567) became the first American submarine to complete a round-the-world cruise, eight months after departing from Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

In 1964, the first shipment of U.S. wheat purchased by the Soviet Union arrived in the port of Odessa.

In 1965, black Muslim leader and civil rights activist Malcolm X, 39, was shot to death inside Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in New York by assassins identified as members of the Nation of Islam. (Three men were convicted of murder and imprisoned; all were eventually paroled.)

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon began his historic visit to China as he and his wife, Pat, arrived in Beijing.

In 1973, Israeli fighter planes shot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 over the Sinai Desert, killing all but five of the 113 people on board.

In 1992, Kristi Yamaguchi (yah-mah-GOO'-chee) of the United States won the gold medal in ladies' figure skating at the Albertville (AL-buhr-vihl) Olympics; Midori Ito (mee-doh-ree ee-toh) of Japan won the silver, Nancy Kerrigan of the U.S., the bronze.

In 1995, Chicago adventurer Steve Fossett became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean by balloon, landing in Leader, Saskatchewan, Canada.

In 2013, Drew Peterson, the Chicago-area police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger fourth wife, Stacy Peterson, vanished in 2007, was sentenced to 38 years in prison for murdering his third wife, Kathleen Savio.

In 2018, the Rev. Billy Graham, a confidant of presidents and the most widely heard Christian evangelist in history, died at his North Carolina home; he was 99. A week after the Florida school shooting, President Donald Trump met with teen survivors of school violence and parents of slain children; Trump promised to be "very strong on background checks" and suggested he supported letting some teachers and other school employees carry weapons.

Ten years ago: A mistaken U.S. missile attack killed 23 civilians in Afghanistan. (Four American officers were later reprimanded.) The United States stunned Canada 5-3 to advance to the Olympic men's hockey quarterfinals in Vancouver. Bode (BOH'-dee) Miller finally captured his elusive gold medal, winning the super-combined for his third medal in three events. Spectator Susan Zimmer, 52, was killed at the NHRA Arizona Nationals at Firebird International Raceway in Chandler when a tire flew off a crashing dragster and struck her.

Five years ago: U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter made his international debut with a visit to Afghanistan to see American troops and commanders, meet with Afghan leaders and assess whether U.S. withdrawal plans were too risky to Afghan security. Activists, actors, and politicians gathered in New York City at the place where civil rights leader Malcolm X was shot to death 50 years earlier. Jazz trumpeter Clark Terry, 94, died in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

One year ago: Peter Tork, who rose to teen-idol fame in the 1960s playing the lovably clueless bass guitarist in the made-for-television rock band The Monkees, died at the age of 77. Teachers in Oakland, California, went on strike in the latest in a wave of teacher activism that had included walkouts in Denver, Los Angeles and West Virginia. North Carolina's election board ordered a new election for the state's last vacant congressional seat; Republican Mark Harris had dropped his bid to be declared the winner after conceding that his lead was tainted by evidence of ballot-tampering. (Republican Dan Bishop won a special election in September.) Opening the first-ever Vatican summit on preventing clergy sexual abuse, Pope Francis

warned 190 bishops and religious superiors that their flocks were demanding concrete action to punish predator priests and keep children safe.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director Bob Rafelson is 87. Actor Gary Lockwood is 83. Actor-director Richard Beymer is 81. Actor Peter McEnery is 80. U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., is 80. Film/music company executive David Geffen is 77. Actress Tyne Daly is 74. Actor Anthony Daniels is 74. Tricia Nixon Cox is 74. Former Sen. Olympia J. Snowe, R-Maine, is 73. Rock musician Jerry Harrison (The Heads) is 71. Actress Christine Ebersole is 67. Actor William Petersen is 67. Actor Kelsey Grammer is 65. Country singer Mary Chapin Carpenter is 62. Actor Kim Coates is 62. Actor Jack Coleman is 62. Actor Christopher Atkins is 59. Actor William Baldwin is 57. Rock musician Michael Ward is 53. Actress Aunjanue Ellis is 51. Blues musician Corey Harris is 51. Country singer Eric Heatherly is 50. Rock musician Eric Wilson is 50. Rock musician Tad Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 47. Singer Rhiannon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) is 43. Actor Tituss Burgess is 41. Actress Jennifer Love Hewitt is 41. Comedian-actor Jordan Peele is 41. Actor Brendan Sexton III is 40. Singer Charlotte Church is 34. Actress Ashley Greene is 33. Actress Ellen Page is 33. Actor Corbin Bleu is 31. Actress Hayley Orrantia is 26. Actress Sophie Turner is 24.

**Thought for Today: "There is nothing more horrifying than stupidity in action."
[-] Adlai E. Stevenson, American politician and diplomat (1900-1965).**

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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