

# Connecting - February 26, 2020

1 message

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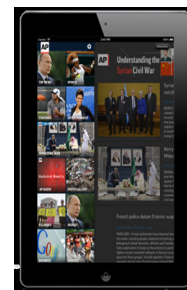
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# Connecting

February 26, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020,

We lead today's Connecting with the sad news of the death of **Ken Peters**, who served as an AP sports writer in the Los Angeles bureau for nearly 35 years. Ken died Sunday at the age of 77 after a long illness.

Los Angeles sports writer **Beth Harris**, who wrote the wire story below on Ken's death, worked with Peters and **John Nadel** for 17 years covering sports in LA. Ken and John both retired in 2009.

"Ken was Mr. Cool to John's Mr. Frantic," Harris recalled for Connecting. "Ken was from Georgia and his easygoing manner belied the craziness that involved covering sports on deadline. I enjoyed talking personal finance with him; he was one of the only journalists I knew who realized the value of saving and investing. We also shared a love of foreign travel. Ken would think nothing of jetting off for solo adventures in Asia. At the same time, he was a real family man who took great pride in his three kids."



**Ken Peters (left), Beth Harris and John Nadel at a joint retirement party for Ken and John in 2009.**

Colleague **Andy Lippman**, who as Los Angeles chief of bureau worked with Ken, said: "Ken was a really decent kind and honorable man. He was a mentor to many young staffers. One of them, Daisy Nguyen (a part-time staffer in San Francisco), called me to tell me the news and you could tell how much it hurt from the way she was reflecting on how he helped her in the early years of her time in LA."

If you have a favorite memory to share of working with Ken, please send it along. And if you'd like to drop a note to his wife Cathy, let me know and I'll share an address.

Here's to a good day ahead!

Paul

## **Ken Peters, AP sports writer who covered Olympics, dies**

**By BETH HARRIS**

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Ken Peters, who covered multiple Olympics and other major events during a nearly 35-year career as a sports writer for The Associated Press, has died. He was 77.

His wife, Cathy, said Peters died Sunday in the Los Angeles suburb of Chino Hills after a long illness.



During his AP career, Peters covered several Super Bowls, Pro Bowls and World Series; championship fights in Las Vegas; football at Southern California and UCLA, in addition to the NFL's Rams during their first stint in Los Angeles; and hockey, basketball, golf, tennis and track and field. He also wrote extensively about the Raiders' battle with the NFL over rights to the Los Angeles market.

Peters willingly jumped in to help on non-sports breaking news.

"He was an extremely great guy," longtime AP co-worker John Antczak said. "He was extraordinarily calm and collected during adverse

situations."

He was part of The AP's Olympics staff at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, 1988 Seoul Games and 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting mailbox

### ***Barbara King Lord imparted 'a sense of the humanity of our profession'***

**Kendall Weaver** ([Email](#)) - I was delighted to see the Feb. 24 profile on Barbara King Lord. I had not seen her name pop up in Connecting - I probably wasn't reading closely enough - and was wondering what had happened to one of the most important people in my 40-year AP career. It was thanks to Barbara - and Marty Thompson and John Dowling and their sharp, caring colleagues - that going to my small AP office in Montgomery was an enriching daily experience and challenge.

Editors and correspondents in small states or bureaus were in need of periodic revival through in-person guidance. To receive it from Barbara was to receive something more than a solid recitation of fundamentals or the latest direction of an ever-shifting journalistic curve (although you got those, too). Through Barbara and the way she spoke and listened in a newsroom, you also came away with a sense of the humanity of our profession, why it matters and some good ways to improve it.

## ***Hiring Barbara King Lord was smart move by Bill Ahearn***

**Marty Thompson** ([Email](#)) - Bringing Barbara King into the AP was a smart and important move by Bill Ahearn. Barbara made the AP better as she showed its people how to improve. In the process she built a legion of admirers. It was instructive and a pleasure to work with Barbara.

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## ***The Miami (MH) Reunion with Reid Miller***

**Larry Hobbs** ([Email](#)) - Some advice to anyone thinking about a staff reunion to celebrate a bureau era: Stop thinking and do it! We chose Winter Park because two of the three people we wanted to honor lived there and have difficulty traveling. Because of reunion-day medical issues, neither former Miami News Editor Ann Hellmuth nor Newsman/Correspondent Ike Flores could join us. Both were better the next day as the rest of us headed home. So do it while you can.

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## ***How will Iwo Jima photo be treated 25 years from now?***

**John Willis** ([Email](#)) - As I walked on the treadmill at the gym Sunday morning I was watching CBS Sunday Morning with the captioning, and they also paid tribute to the 75th anniversary of that photograph, but worded it to the effect that the scene depicted was after a US victory in the battle. We know now that the fighting raged on after that photo was snapped, and that three of the six Marines who helped raise that flag died in action on Iwo over the month that followed.

I wonder how it will be treated 25 years from now, when all of us are gone?

There is a line from a Simon & Garfunkel song called "[Old Friends.](#)"

"Long ago...it must be...I have a photograph. Preserve your memories. They're all that's left you."

Helping us remember what great work the men and women of The AP did before we took up the torch is really a wonderful way to inspiring those who will carry us into the future.

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## ***Fighting the big viruses***

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - The current coronavirus is not the first to send panic waves throughout world society. This one, from China, has turned on the panic button, and the illness rolls on.

The usual isolations take place, but, as always, the preceding various viruses have spread basically around the world. Are evacuations really the answer? Yes, people want to get out of the contagion, but is that the safest and best, or would keeping those in the affected area just stay where they are and take all precautions?

There is nothing funny about this problem, but it does remind me of a couple of personal stories.

In 1948 my new bride and I were on our honeymoon. The polio virus broke out and we went into a panic. We stayed indoors, took our temperatures about four times per day, felt weak in our legs, and imagined more symptoms. No, we never had, or got polio. Yes, we later felt like fools.

Another time, in 1980, my wife was almost dead with cancer, and we went to Jamaica for alternative health care. As our plane landed at Montego Bay, a local health official came aboard, went to the back of the plane, and in a military style, held a small can of anti-bacterial spray high over his head and marched military style down the aisle spraying the ceiling.

Over the 28 years as an AP photographer, I was often around sick people, and who may be contagious, but my solution then was to take a nice bourbon and water. I'm still here.

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***Bismarck or Vegas? Thanks, George!***

**John Willis (Email)** - I got a kick out of Peggy Walsh's "Fargo" threat story in Tuesday's Connecting.

I can remember driving back from a Nebraska AP Broadcasters meeting back in 1975, I believe it was. I was riding with Omaha correspondent Ed Nicholls and our Des Moines COB, George Zucker.

I don't know how the conversation got around to transfers, but I mentioned that I wouldn't mind the Fargo correspondence.

I had the walleye fishing bug bad in those days, and Fargo was a stone's throw from some northern Minnesota lakes that I had been fishing. I could see some weekends fishing, as opposed to one trip north each summer. Besides, I thought Fargo was a pretty cool dateline.

I'm not sure what Zucker heard, but not long afterwards he surprised me. He had recommended me for the correspondence in Bismarck. I'm not sure who vacated, but Bismarck was definitely not in my dreams.

I did not and still do not care much for writing politics. Bismarck is the state capital, so it is all politics, North Dakota style. I thanked Zucker for the recommendation, but NY picked someone else for the job. It may have been Gary Clark. I just don't remember.

I lucked out. A year or so later, with Zucker's help, I landed in Las Vegas. Bismarck or Vegas? Bismarck or Vegas?? Thanks George!! No walleye fishing but what a plum of an assignment.

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***AP Gals Trip to New York City - the more, the merrier***



**Diana Heidgerd (Email)** - As mentioned in the Jan. 9, 2020, AP Connecting - here's an update to my annual AP Gals Trip to New York City, in what is turning into a case of the more, the merrier when it comes to current and former AP staffers, and other friends.

The above selfie, taken Saturday, Feb. 22, at a New York City subway station, shows (left-right): Former Dallas AP journalist & AP Radio/BNC staffer Amanda Barnett of Atlanta, AP aerospace writer Marcia Dunn of Cocoa Beach, Florida (her first trip with us), AP New York science desk journalist Stephanie Nano, retired AP Boston staffer Sylvia Wingfield, veteran nurse & longtime AP enthusiast Karen Lieberman of Chatham, New Jersey, and retired Dallas AP staffer Diana Heidgerd (Karen's sister-in-law).

Of note: Marcia (who took the train from Florida to New York City) managed to knock out a great Mars-related feature, which hit the wire Monday, Feb. 24. Click [here](#).

I wondered how Marcia, amid all the running around that we did in New York City, found the time for a bylined story with a Monday angle while on her first AP Gals Trip with us?

I texted her Monday afternoon while she was on the train, heading home to Florida, and she said - no problem! Marcia said she'd received the embargoed information on NASA's newest Mars lander and simply wrote the story while on the train last week bound for New York City and some vacation fun with the rest of us.

Now that's dedication to AP! Great job Marcia!

P.S. If Marcia ever washes out as an aerospace writer, or even as an AP journalist (after an amazing 41 years) I believe she still has a promising future in the transportation and education industries - given her obvious driving skills. See below photo.



**Diana (left) and Marcia, snapped at famed toy store FAO Schwarz in Manhattan (NY)**

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***It's the last call for Burger Heaven***





**The doors will close on the last outpost of a lunch counter empire on Feb. 28. Photo/Bryan Derballa for The New York Times**

**Dan Day** ([Email](#)) - AP colleagues note: It's last call for Burger Heaven. The Burger Heaven near Rockefeller Center (which is already gone) was the de facto corporate dining room for the New York Membership Department in the early 2000s. I had many a \$13 (plus tip) Cheeseburger Deluxe with Fries there with Henry Ackerman, Rick Spratling, Pam Weisz and our beloved leader, Wick Temple. Burger Heaven was ideal because it was a quick walk from 50 Rock, the prices were a Midtown bargain, and we were usually in and out within an hour. Those lunches were a great team-builder, a chance for us to catch up on what we were hearing from around headquarters and in the field. The best part? Just being together.

Click [here](#) for New York Times story.

## **Connecting new-member profile - Michael Harper**

**Michael Harper** ([Email](#)) - works with the Missouri Press Association as Director of the Missouri Press Foundation. The Foundation is the charitable branch of the Association and focuses on connecting younger generations to newspaper journalism and recognizing the fantastic work done by veteran Missouri newspaper journalists. With more than 15 years of experience in external relations, he is passionate about communication, building relationships and creating opportunities for donors and partners to tell their stories through the organizations that share their priorities and excitement for change. He believes that independent, local journalism

is the backbone of democracy in America and is proud to support it. He is excited to be working for an organization with such a long history of passionately advocating for journalists and their important role in our society. He holds a masters and bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas, and before joining Missouri Press, he worked in higher education helping several universities launch successful fundraising campaigns. He is passionate about theatre and the arts and previously worked to support the successful launch of a new regional theatre in Northwest Arkansas called Theatre Squared. He lives in Columbia with his partner, dogs and 17-year-old daughter. He is also excited to join the Connecting community as a way to further build his connections to the news and those who report it.



## Stories of interest

### *Victims turn to media to expose sex abuse by college doctors*



**In this Jan. 20, 2020 photo, Robert Julian Stone looks over his medical records in his home in Palm Springs, Calif. Stone, a former University of Michigan student, alleges that the late University of Michigan Athletic Department physician Robert E. Anderson sexually assaulted him during a medical examination**

in 1971. (Kim Kozlowski/Detroit News via AP)

By TAMMY WEBBER and KATHLEEN FOODY

Robert Julian Stone was tired of waiting, afraid that complaints of sexual abuse at the hands of a former University of Michigan doctor would be covered up.

So five months after contacting the university to report that he'd been assaulted during a 1971 medical exam - and after learning there were more alleged victims - the 69-year-old Stone turned to The Detroit News.

The newspaper last week was the first to report Stone's allegations against the late Dr. Robert E. Anderson, triggering similar reports. It was reminiscent of sex abuse scandals at other universities, where the media reported allegations before officials publicly acknowledged complaints against doctors.

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

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## ***Nicaragua's last newspaper dared to criticize the government. Then it lost its ink and paper***

(Los Angeles Times)



© Gary Coronado/Los Angeles Times/TNS Journalism student Martha Chamorro walks with her father, Emiliano Chamorro, a La Prensa journalist who was laid off this year in Nicaragua.

**By Kate Linthicum**

MANAGUA, Nicaragua - The board of directors of Nicaragua's oldest newspaper sat down in January to discuss the future. It looked bleak.

Like many print publications in the digital age, La Prensa had been struggling for years amid declining advertising revenue. A recent economic recession had made things worse.

But the Managua-based newspaper faced another, more immediate challenge. For more than a year, President Daniel Ortega had barred La Prensa from accessing two of its most essential ingredients: newsprint and ink.

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

## Today in History - Feb. 26, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2020. There are 309 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Feb. 26, 1993, a truck bomb built by Islamic extremists exploded in the parking garage of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others. (The bomb failed to topple the North Tower into the South Tower, as the terrorists had hoped; both structures were destroyed in the 9/11 attack eight years later.)

**On this date:**

In 1616, astronomer Galileo Galilei met with a Roman Inquisition official, Cardinal Robert Bellarmine, who ordered him to abandon the "heretical" concept of heliocentrism, which held that the earth revolved around the sun, instead of the other way around.

In 1904, the United States and Panama proclaimed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to undertake efforts to build a ship canal across the Panama isthmus.

In 1916, actor-comedian Jackie Gleason was born in Brooklyn, New York.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Mount McKinley National Park (now Denali National Park) in the Alaska Territory.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

In 1940, the United States Air Defense Command was created.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1966, South Korean troops sent to fight in the Vietnam War massacred at least 380 civilians in Go Dai hamlet.

In 1984, the last U.S. Marines deployed to Beirut as part of an international peacekeeping force withdrew from the Lebanese capital.

In 1994, a jury in San Antonio acquitted 11 followers of David Koresh of murder, rejecting claims they had ambushed federal agents; five were convicted of voluntary manslaughter.

In 1998, a jury in Amarillo, Texas, rejected an \$11 million lawsuit brought by Texas cattlemen who blamed Oprah Winfrey's talk show for a price fall after a segment on food safety that included a discussion about mad cow disease.

Ten years ago: New York Gov. David Paterson announced he wouldn't seek reelection amid a criminal investigation over his handling of a domestic violence complaint against a top aide. (Investigators found no evidence of witness tampering.) At the Vancouver Olympics, the Americans reached 34 medals with a silver and a bronze in short-track speedskating.

Five years ago: Internet activists declared victory over the nation's big cable companies after the Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 to impose the toughest rules yet on broadband service to prevent companies like Comcast, Verizon and AT&T from creating paid fast lanes and slowing or blocking web traffic. "Jihadi John," the masked knife-wielding Islamic State militant seen in execution videos, was identified as Mohammed Emwazi, a London-raised university graduate known to British intelligence for more than five years. Theodore Hesburgh, 97, a Catholic priest who transformed the University of Notre Dame into a school known almost as much for academics as football and who championed human rights around the globe, died in South Bend, Indiana.

One year ago: After making his way from Pyongyang in an armored train, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Vietnam's capital ahead of a summit with President Donald Trump, who arrived later in the day aboard Air Force One. A federal appeals court cleared AT&T's takeover of Time Warner, rejecting claims from the Trump administration that the \$81 billion deal would harm consumers and reduce competition.

Today's Birthdays: Game show host Tom Kennedy is 93. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 77. Actor-director Bill Duke is 77. Singer Mitch Ryder is 75. Actress Marta Kristen (TV: "Lost in Space") is 75. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 70. Singer Michael Bolton is 67. The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan (REH'-jehp TY'-ihp UR'-doh-wahn), is 66. Actor Greg Germann is 62. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 62. Bandleader John McDaniel is 59. Actor-martial artist Mark Dacascos is 56. Actress Jennifer Grant is 54. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 52. Singer Erykah Badu (EHR'-ih-kah bah-DOO') is 49. Actor Maz Jobrani (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 48. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 45. Actor Greg Kinnear is 43. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 41. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 40. Pop singer Nate Ruess (roos) (fun.) is 38. Tennis player Li Na is 38. Latin singer Natalia Lafourcade is 36. Actress Teresa Palmer is 34. Actor Alex Heartman is 30. Actress Taylor Dooley is 27.

Thought for Today: "If you have it and you know you have it, then you have it. If you have it and don't know you have it, you don't have it. If you don't have it but you think you have it, then you have it." [-] Jackie Gleason (1916-1987).

## 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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