

Connecting - March 17, 2020

1 message

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Connecting March 17, 2020

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Journalists keep their distance from political leader Matteo Salvini, center, outside Chigi palace in Rome, March 10. (AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 17th day of March 2020,

How can journalists fight the stress from nonstop coverage of the coronavirus pandemic?

That's a question posed and then answered by **Al Tompkins** of Poynter.org and his wife **Sidney**, a licensed psychotherapist, in a Poynter story that we feature in today's Connecting.

“Journalists tell me they spend all day talking with experts who are warning that the worst is yet to come and with people who are worrying about how to keep themselves and their families healthy,” Tompkins wrote. “They report cancellation after cancellation while watching their retirement savings dwindle in the Wall Street storm.”

The Tompkins' produced a video to share with newsrooms as well as a text version – “9 ways journalists can push back against the stress of an always-on story.” Click [here](#) to view. Connecting would like to hear from you on what you think of their advice – and whether it would have applied to stories you covered. Or you have your own advice to share.

What happened in Vegas didn't stay in Vegas, as you'll see in a report from AP Spokane Correspondent **Nick Geranios** who shares his experience of going ahead with a long-planned birthday vacation to Las Vegas as coronavirus was beginning to spread.

In a departure from our coronavirus theme, our colleague **Terry Ganey** ([Email](#)) was cleaning out a file cabinet when he came across an AP World magazine from 1974 where he spotted a photograph with a caption that read: "BEAUTY SPOT: Saigon photographer **Neal Ulevich** takes a break from his usual heavier assignments to photograph contestants for the Miss Universe Pageant in Manila. He's trying out his underwater camera in the hotel pool."

Terry suggested it would be interesting to get a report from Neal, also a Connecting colleague, so we bring you the back story from the retired AP photographer who won a Pulitzer Prize in Spot News Photography in 1977 for a series of photographs of disorder and brutality in the streets of Bangkok.

Here's to a great day ahead! Be safe and stay healthy. And share your experiences with coronavirus or any other topic on your mind.

Paul

A Vegas birthday in the age of coronavirus

Nick Geranios ([Email](#)) - LAS VEGAS - As the world grappled with the rapid spread of coronavirus, a decision had to be made regarding a long-planned birthday vacation.

Go to Las Vegas or cancel?

I went.

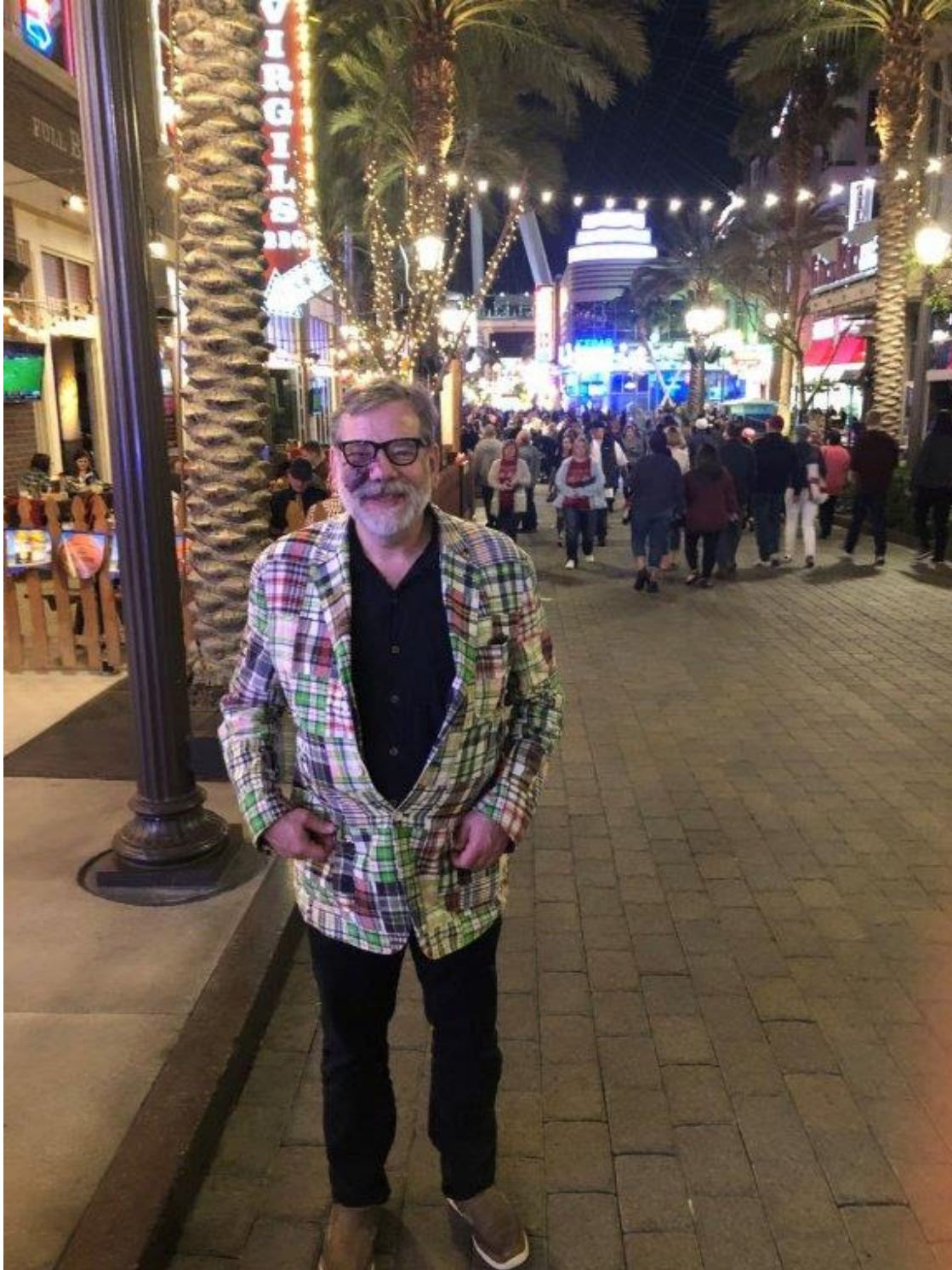


Photo of Nick Geranios by Tom Geranios

For two nights in Sin City, I was largely able to escape anxiety about the disease, while at the same time viewing its effects on the economy.

The vacation was booked months ago for March 8-10, largely to escape the snow and frigid temperatures of my home in Spokane, Washington. I spent four days in the Phoenix area, visiting my sister, then boarded a Southwest plane for the short hop to Vegas.

The first sign of the impact of coronavirus was that the plane had plenty of empty seats, which in my experience is unusual for Southwest flights. Crowds at McCarran International Airport seemed lighter than normal. I didn't have to wait for a cab to New York New York.

My routines in Vegas are well-established. I check into the hotel, change into my "Vegas" jacket, which is a patchwork sport coat by Ralph Lauren, and immediately try my luck at the slots.

Arriving at the hotel around 8:30 a.m., I was not real surprised to learn my room was not yet available. I was surprised to learn it would likely be 3 p.m. before it was ready. Is there a shortage of housekeepers?

I idled away a couple of hours losing at the machines and waited for the arrival of my middle son, Tom, who was joining me for my birthday.

Tom arrived shortly after noon and we had lunch in a virtually empty restaurant inside New York New York. Then we walked the Strip, looking for discount tickets to a show that night.

We settled on going to Jimmy Kimmel's comedy club on the Linq Promenade.

We sauntered back to the hotel, stopping to gamble and have a drink along the way. Walking along the Strip can sometimes be an ordeal because of the wall of humanity. That was not a problem on this day. Even the Parrotheads seemed to be in short supply at Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville.

Later that evening we had dinner at Best Friend, a nice Korean place inside the Park MGM that was quite crowded, and then went to the comedy show. The club at Kimmel's was about half-full and the headliner was something of a bore. We trudged home and went to bed.

The next day, March 9, was my birthday, and MGM Resorts gave me \$80 in free gambling money that I promptly squandered.

We had breakfast in yet another virtually empty restaurant. Then walked down to have a drink poolside at the Bellagio. Again crowds were sparse.

We debated attending the West Coast Conference basketball tournament semifinals that night at the Orleans Arena, which featured my beloved Gonzaga. But a check of Stubhub found that tickets were \$200 each. Too rich for our blood.

Instead, we went to the sports book at the MGM Grand and each bet on Gonzaga to beat San Francisco by at least 14 points. We found a comfortable couch in front of a giant television screen in a virtually empty bar to watch the game.

Gonzaga won, but didn't cover the spread, so we lost our bets.

We had dinner in the bustling Mexican place in New York New York, gambled for a bit, then went to bed.

The next morning Tom flew back to Los Angeles and I flew home to Spokane on a plane with lots of empty seats.

By Monday, several casino companies announced they would close because of the outbreak.

His Nikonos (underwater Nikons) served him well during Asia coverage



Photo by Jess Tan

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - I was in Manila to cover the Miss Universe Pageant, and that July 1974 day was devoted to set-ups at a glitzy hotel pool. I wore swim trunks under my street clothing and carried my Nikonos underwater camera. The contestants were game and it was great fun. Other photographers, Filipino and foreign, were amused as well. AP Manila staff photographer and friend Jess Tan took the picture of me. A Manila daily newspaper turned the moment into a rather funny editorial cartoon.

The Nikonos served me well in tropical downpours over my Asia years. On one occasion, probably January 1971, I pulled the same stunt when South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu took his annual New Year swim at the seaside town of Vung Tau. Thieu and his bodyguards were perplexed and amused, but didn't stop me.



In February 1973, I covered the return of POWs to the Hanoi-held side of the Thach Han river at Quang Tri City. The POWs were ferried across the river in their shorts, having shed their prison garb mid-stream. They jumped from the boats near shore and splashed their way ashore, into the arms of waiting comrades. I used the Nikonos as well as my Nikon cameras, occasionally dipping the Nikonos into the stream to wash sand and dirt off - and amuse the otherwise dour North Vietnamese troops who never saw a camera intentionally treated to a bath.

lost touch with Jess years ago. He left AP and I ran into him in Saudi during the Gulf War, but nothing since, I'm afraid.

Nothing special on the POWs, just a souvenir shot looking cold and damp with Nikonos and conventional camera hanging from my neck. The North Vietnamese in the background were there to welcome the returning POWs. The Hanoi side surprised the Saigon-based press at Quang Tri (there

were only a handful of us) by allowing us to cross the river with the POWs and cover the return from their turf. No one was more surprised than Horst Faas, editing film in Saigon, who saw the permission to cross as unprecedented. The pictures were well received by US newspapers.

Connecting mailbox

Credit for 'Best' needs to include AP California election crew

Howard Goldberg ([Email](#)) - I'll bet some Connecting colleagues were surprised by one thing missing yesterday in "Best of the Week: AP Decision Desk caps stellar Super Tuesday with instant call: California for Sanders." The account credited Washington, D.C., staffers for making the call, but it didn't answer the question of whether they consulted with anyone at AP in California first. Yes, they did. I was working as an elections contractor in the race-calling room of the Los Angeles bureau. One of the race callers, LOS-based AP data journalist Angeliki Kastanis @angel_kastanis, signed off on the Sanders call after talking with California news editor Frank Baker and me (former New York bureau chief and former assistant chief in LOS). The WDC Decision Desk under Stephen Ohlemacher is super professional, well-organized, courteous and respectful of the way the race callers scattered around the country are able to gather insights from their local contacts inside and outside AP.

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More on home delivery

James Raia ([Email](#)) - With regard to home delivery (see Monday's Connecting):

I subscribe to the print version of The Wall Street Journal. It's delivered by the carrier who delivers the Sacramento Bee. We get only the online edition of The Bee. But the weekend print editions of the WSJ are now delivered on Sunday instead of Saturday.

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Coping with reading online and the virus

Joe Galu ([Email](#)) - Like they say - I don't have a fear of flying. I'm afraid of crashing.

I stopped buying the NYTimes and subscribed online. It's not the same, but I reduced my paper consumption by more than half. I buy a hard copy about once a year and love paging through it.

I am 77, almost 78, relatively healthy, prepare my own meals three times a day, wash my hands and my dishes many times a day and touch my face with my newly washed hands. I've survived cancer (27 years ago) and a heart attack (five years ago). They removed my gall bladder and my secum & appendix during a few of my more-than-30 surgeries. They haven't succeeded in killing me yet. I think I'll get through this. I am fairly sure if you get it and live, you cannot get it again. There is the old saying that you can't get the same cold twice, but there are many pathogens that cause the "common cold." There has to be some reason old guys like us get fewer and fewer colds. I think I'll survive this too. I need to go buy some boxes of gluten-free mac and cheese. I have lots of stuff in the larder. Maybe I'll buy more coca-cola. Albany has good-tasting high-quality water. It makes good coffee.

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Ready for Judgment Day?

Mary Lou Howey ([Email](#)) - The story of the guy who didn't want to stand up and go to Heaven as a group (in Monday's Connecting) reminded me of the old farmer - asked if he was ready for Judgment Day - inquired, "When is it?" When told, "It could be today, could be tomorrow," replied, "Don't tell my wife, she'll want to go both days!"

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Newspapers in Art



Paul Albright (Email) - There is a lot going on in this early 19th century painting, but Connecting readers can focus on the newspaper angle of this oil-on-canvas by John Lewis Krimmel. In his “In An American Inn/Village Tavern” (1813-1814), the postman has just arrived by coach (upper left) and is carrying his mail pouch and a basket of bundled newspapers, some for individual subscribers and others for exchange, sale, or made available to the tavern’s customers. Some newspapers attached to wooden rods are hanging on the back wall. On the right side, a customer is reading aloud from a newspaper while a man at his side calls attention to the latest news that is being conveyed. In the lower left, a second newspaper reader is distracted by the conversation as he warms himself beside the tavern stove.

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Media in the movies



Bruce Lowitt (Email) - From an early scene in “The last thing he wanted”.

Remembering Tejano superstar Selena 25 years after her death in Texas



This July 30, 2019, photo shows a new Selena mural by San Siguenza that was installed on the exterior of the Food Store in the Molina neighborhood of Corpus Christi, Texas. The previous mural was painted by West Oso High School students in 1995 as a neighborhood tribute to Selena Quintanilla-Perez. (Rachel Denny Clow/Corpus Christi Caller-Times via AP)

Diana Heidgerd ([Email](#)) - Every year, in March, I think of two things from 1995 that impacted my life.

I met my future husband, Paul Heidgerd, on March 11. Something to celebrate!

On March 31, Tejano superstar Selena was gunned down in Corpus Christi.

On a recent afternoon, the TV was on in my Dallas home and the popular movie "Selena" came on. Some stations seem to play that 1997 movie, featuring actress Jennifer Lopez as the beloved Grammy-winning singer, more during March as a remembrance of Selena and her fatal shooting by a former fan club president.

I still feel sad watching that movie and thinking about Selena's death.

On March 31, 1995, a reporter I knew, at a Corpus Christi radio station, told me by phone about a shooting and continuing standoff at a motel. The reporter said it appeared the victim was 23-year-old Selena Quintanilla Perez, better known as just Selena.

Selena, dubbed the "Latin Madonna," was already hugely popular in Texas, California and Florida and her fame was growing around the world.

The reporter told me that a police official on the scene confirmed a woman had been shot, the victim was Selena but authorities weren't saying much more and had not yet publicly announced her death.

I managed to get a police official on the phone, who hesitated about making the formal announcement that Selena had died, amid the standoff that continued outside the motel. I told him that I was an Associated Press reporter, this was a huge story because it involved Selena and could he at least answer "Yes" or "No" if I asked basic questions and quoted him by name, with specifics not yet released?

He said that he could, but he only had a minute.

So I asked – was a woman shot while at a Corpus Christi motel? (We'd already confirmed some basic information from the scene so I knew what to ask, the locals were reporting the Selena connection).

He answered: "Yes."

I asked if police had confirmed that the woman who was shot was Selena, the famous Tejano singer?

He answered: "Yes."

I asked: "Is she alive?"

He responded: "No, she is not."

Then he said he had to go and hung up.

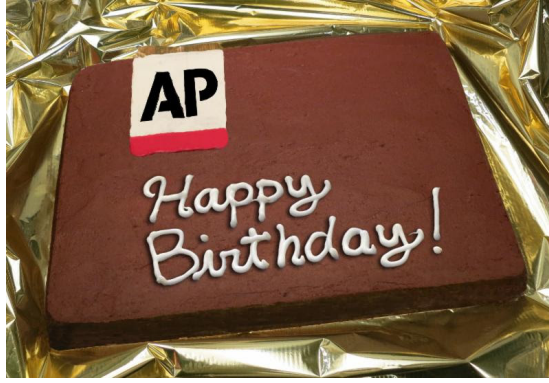
That was enough to get the story on the AP wire.

Months later, the woman accused of killing Selena was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, where she remains.

An updated mural honoring Selena [was unveiled last summer](#) in Corpus Christi.

Selena's family has announced a May 9 tribute concert in San Antonio, at the Alamodome, to remember their loved one.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Gary Clark – clarkfay@hotmail.com

Carl Leubsdorf – carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com

Stories of interest

What it's like to have coronavirus: A first-hand account from CBS News' Seth Doane (CBS This Morning)

By DAVID MORGAN

Six CBS News employees have been diagnosed with COVID-19, including foreign correspondent Seth Doane. Appearing on "CBS This Morning" on Monday from his home in Rome, Italy, Doane described his symptoms, testing and coronavirus diagnosis, and his experience living under quarantine.

His first symptom, he said, was, "I coughed a little bit, just enough to worry the people I was with here. We were out working covering this story. I started to have a little bit of a cough that worried me. For the most part, I feel okay. As we know, this is a deadly virus. It can be incredibly serious, a major respiratory illness. So far I've been lucky. I've had a chest pressure almost like you feel like you've done a big chest workout. I've had a little bit of a cough. I had a relatively mild fever. I've had kind of weird aches and pains in places I'm not used to. But honestly, I feel like I've had colds and flus worse than this. I've never been totally out for the whole day in bed. I've been up, able to talk with people. So for me, luckily, it's been quite mild.

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

Trump's rage at the media takes a dangerous new turn (Washington Post)

By Greg Sargent
Opinion writer

It's bad enough that President Trump has relentlessly minimized the coronavirus threat for nakedly political reasons, disastrously hampering the federal government response to the crisis, with untold consequences to come.

Determined not to be outdone by his own malice and depravity, Trump is taking new steps that threaten to make all of it worse. He's telling millions of Americans to entirely shut out any and all correctives to his falsehoods. He's insisting they must plug their ears to any criticism designed to hold his government accountable for the failures we're seeing, even though such criticism could nudge the response in a more constructive direction.

The latest updates on the coronavirus

Trump is now raging at the media for reporting on his botched claims about Google's plans for a new website to steer people to testing options. Trump dramatically overpromised in this regard, forcing Google to scale down the expectations he had created.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Michael Rubin.

Tracy Wood, Voice of OC's Civic News Editor, Dies at 76



By VOICE OF OC STAFF

Voice of OC's civic news editor, Tracy A. Wood, a legendary and pioneering investigative reporter, editor, and war correspondent, died Thursday in Fullerton due to complications with cancer. She was 76.

"We are deeply saddened to lose sight of our cherished comrade in arms," said Voice of OC Publisher and Editor in Chief, Norberto Santana Jr.

"Our newsroom mourns the loss of a true leader, and we all feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Tracy, always drawing deep inspiration from her steely dedication to the public service role of journalism."

A founding member of the Voice of OC editorial staff and a newsroom leader, Wood began her storied journalism career with the Los Angeles City News Service in 1965 after attending the University of Missouri. She quickly moved on to general assignment and government reporting for United Press International (UPI), working first out of the Sacramento Bureau and later UPI's New York office.

From New York, Wood successfully advocated for herself to be sent to Saigon, Vietnam in 1972 – over an editor's objections about sending a young woman to the war zone – to cover the Vietnam War.

At age 25, she took a leadership role in the news coverage of the release of American prisoners from North Vietnam in 1974, and was the only U.S. news reporter present when John McCain and other American prisoners of war were released from the Hanoi Hilton in March 1973.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word

Remembering Typing Class: The Class That Actually Mattered In The Long Run (Do You Remember)



Teachers wanted students to be as efficient as possible / Reddit

By Dana Daly

When first introduced to the course, few expected how important typing classes would become. This is especially true when considering the early start this class got. Fortunately, the powers that be understood the need to learn how to navigate this new form of communicating. Like any other skill, typing had to be developed with practice so the process could be streamlined.

Streamlining began with typing classes that date back to the typewriter's introduction. Near the end of the 1800s, typewriters earned a respectable reputation as useful communication tools. Realizing what they had, manufacturers started honing in on instructional methods. Before too long, we found ourselves exposed to classes that ended up being some of the most useful ever taught in schools.

The ability to share information and express thoughts changed everything. Each time a new innovation came to light, humanity adjusted around this ability. Needless to say, we've come a long way from cave drawings. Typewriters, in particular, introduced the need for lessons. By 1880, typewriter manufacturer Remington designed courses to solidify their product's status. These courses started off rather simple but became pretty universal by the early 1900s.

Read more [here](#).

Today in History – March 17, 2020



1974 Pulitzer Prize for Photography, POW returns from Vietnam and is greeted, by his family on March 17, 1973, at Travis Air Force Base, California, by **Slava Veder**, the Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, March 17, the 77th day of 2020. There are 289 days left in the year. This is St. Patrick's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 17, 1988, Avianca Flight 410, a Boeing 727, crashed after takeoff into a mountain in Colombia, killing all 143 people on board.

On this date:

In 1762, New York held its first St. Patrick's Day parade.

In 1776, the Revolutionary War Siege of Boston ended as British forces evacuated the city.

In 1912, the Camp Fire Girls organization was incorporated in Washington, D.C., two years to the day after it was founded in Thetford, Vermont. (The group is now known as Camp Fire.)

In 1936, Pittsburgh's Great St. Patrick's Day Flood began as the Monongahela and Allegheny rivers and their tributaries, swollen by rain and melted snow, started exceeding flood stage; the high water was blamed for more than 60 deaths.

In 1958, the U.S. Navy launched the Vanguard 1 satellite.

In 1959, the Dalai Lama fled Tibet for India in the wake of a failed uprising by Tibetans against Chinese rule.

In 1969, Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel.

In 1970, the United States cast its first veto in the U.N. Security Council, killing a resolution that would have condemned Britain for failing to use force to overthrow the white-ruled government of Rhodesia.

In 1973, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Robert L. Stirm, a freed prisoner of the Vietnam War, was joyously greeted by his family at Travis Air Force Base in California in a scene captured in a Pulitzer Prize-winning AP photograph.

In 1992, 29 people were killed in the truck bombing of the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Illinois, Sen. Alan Dixon was defeated in his primary reelection bid by Carol Moseley-Braun, who went on to become the first black woman in the U.S. Senate.

In 2005, baseball players told Congress that steroids were a problem in the sport; stars Rafael Palmeiro and Sammy Sosa testified they hadn't used them while Mark McGwire refused to say whether he had. (McGwire owned up to steroid use in January 2010.)

In 2009, U.S. journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee were detained by North Korea while reporting on North Korean refugees living across the border in China. (Both were convicted of entering North Korea illegally and were sentenced to 12 years of hard labor; both were freed in August 2009 after

former President Bill Clinton met with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.) The Seattle Post-Intelligencer published its final print edition.

Ten years ago: Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter became the first state chief executive to sign a measure requiring his attorney general to sue Congress if it passed health reforms requiring residents to buy insurance (a mostly symbolic action on Idaho’s part, since federal laws supersede those of the states). Michael Jordan became the first ex-player to become a majority owner in the league as the NBA’s Board of Governors unanimously approved Jordan’s \$275 million bid to buy the Charlotte Bobcats from Bob Johnson. Singer-guitarist Alex Chilton, 59, died in New Orleans.

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s Likud Party won a resounding victory in parliamentary elections after an acrimonious campaign, giving him a mandate to form the next government. U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock, R-Ill., abruptly resigned following a cascade of revelations about his business deals and lavish spending on everything from overseas travel to office decor in the style of “Downton Abbey.”

One year ago: New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand formally joined the 2020 Democratic presidential race. (She would leave the race in August amid low polling and major fundraising struggles.) Thousands of people paid tribute at makeshift memorials to the victims of a gunman who killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Today’s Birthdays: The former national chairwoman of the NAACP, Myrlie Evers-Williams, is 87. Former astronaut Ken Mattingly is 84. Singer-songwriter Jim Weatherly is 77. Singer-songwriter John Sebastian (The Lovin’ Spoonful) is 76. Former NSA Director and former CIA Director Michael Hayden is 75. Rock musician Harold Brown (War; Lowrider Band) is 74. Actor Patrick Duffy is 71. Actor Kurt Russell is 69. Country singer Susie Allanson is 68. Actress Lesley-Anne Down is 66. Actor Mark Boone Jr. is 65. Country singer Paul Overstreet is 65. Actor Gary Sinise is 65. Actor Christian Clemenson is 62. Former basketball and baseball player Danny Ainge is 61. Actor Arye Gross is 60. Actress Vicki Lewis is 60. Actor Casey Siemaszko (sheh-MA'-zshko) is 59. Writer-director Rob Sitch is 58. Actor Rob Lowe is 56. Rock singer Billy Corgan is 53. Rock musician Van Conner (Screaming Trees) is 53. Actor Mathew St. Patrick is 52. Actor Yanic (YAH'-neek) Truesdale is 51. Rock musician Melissa Auf der Maur is 48. Olympic gold medal soccer player Mia Hamm is 48. Rock musician Caroline Corr (The Corrs) is 47. Actress Amelia Heinle is 47. Country singer Keifer Thompson (Thompson Square) is 47. Actress Marisa Coughlan is 46. Rapper Swifty (D12) is 45. Actress Natalie Zea (zee) is 45. Sports reporter Tracy Wolfson is 45. Actress Brittany Daniel is 44. Singer and TV personality Tamar Braxton is 43. Country musician Geoff Sprung (Old Dominion) is 42. Reggaeton singer Nicky Jam is 39. TV personality Rob Kardashian (kar-DASH'-ee-uhn) (TV: “Keeping Up With the Kardashians”) is 33. Pop/rock singer-songwriter Hozier is 30. Actress Eliza Hope Bennett is 28. Actor John Boyega is 28. Olympic gold medal swimmer Katie Ledecky is 23. Actor Flynn Morrison is 15.

Thought for Today: “May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, the angels protect you, and heaven accept you.” [-] Irish saying.

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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