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Connecting March 25, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 25th day of March 2020,

How are you coping with the effects of the coronavirus pandemic?

We hope you stay healthy, first and foremost, but share how you're doing, especially if you are in a stay-at-home area of the country. Reading more books, taking on new activities outdoors, watching lots of Netflix? Who is your most trusted source of information? Are you glued to the television or do you find you need respite from all the grim news?

Share your thoughts and observations with your colleagues.

GROUND GAME : In Tuesday's episode of "Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak," the AP's virus podcast, host Ralph Russo talks to sports writer Eddie Pells about what the postponement of the 2020 Olympics means for Tokyo, businesses and the athletes themselves. Listen [here](#) .

Have a great and healthy day!

Paul

A note about virus numbers



Temperatures are checked before people enter a local city hall during a community quarantine aimed to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus in Manila, Philippines, March 24, 2020. (AP Photo/Aaron Favila)

**By John Daniszewski
AP Standards Editor At Large**

Numbers have been key to reporting on the current coronavirus health crisis. Data on the geographic spread and the acceleration or deacceleration of the contagion have been the foundation for understanding the battle. National and global metrics on cases, deaths and recovery are the battlefield statistics we need to tell this story.

Keeping up with the data around the COVID-19 outbreak can be a challenge. With a multitude of dashboards and data sources out there, the AP has decided to use the data collected by the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering as our prime source for outbreak caseloads and death counts for the United States and globally.

Among the points that played into the decision: The Hopkins data is now available at the county level in the U.S., which will allow us to see local trends. Hopkins has been collecting this data for the longest time, starting months versus weeks ago — gathering data from a variety of sources and vetting and double-checking it before publishing. Its data project is led by actual epidemiologists and doctors familiar with disease spread.

As with everything, there are exceptions: If a mayor or governor announces a number that is different from what is in the dashboard, then it's fine to use that number and attribute to the source. But we should still use Hopkins for global

figures, and not be afraid to note when their numbers might not match up against the latest announcement.

Unless the story is about a milestone, it's better to speak about the numbers in generalities, or to round off the figures in stories, scripts and captions. Chances are any exact figure will be outdated as soon as you push the button, so "at least" and "more than" are the best tools to avoid looking dated.

Click [here](#) for link to this Definitive Source blog.

Mourning a sister lost to coronavirus



The Tran sisters : Tran Mong Chi, Tran Mong Tu, Tran Mong Diep- 2010

Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - Tran Mong Tu, AP Saigon bureau secretary affectionately known as Tutu by AP staff, was among those evacuated to the U.S. at the end of the Vietnam war. She married and over the years became well known for her Vietnamese language poetry. She wrote this after the coronavirus death March 16 of her sister, Chi, in Washington State.

Silence

(A Morning Farewell to Trần Mộng Chi*)

By Trần Mộng Tú

Our bodies, like empty vases
Each in one's own corner
Covering our faces with our palms
Crying alone in our hearts
We look at each other passively
Without a shoulder to cry on
Without holding someone's hand
Our hands find themselves together
So lonely, our hands!
Each one of us with a rose
The silent casket
The silent flowers
The quiet welling up tear drops
Mourning a passing soul
A soul which departs silently
God remains silent
Listening to the prayers
Prayers that are without words
Embracing a resting soul
The morning is quiet
Not a sound of bird flying
The cherry flowers are silent
Blooming in the cemetery

Connecting mailbox

Your daily newspaper!

Charles McFadden ([Email](#)) - You know, this coronavirus pandemic is proving, more than ever, the value of our daily newspapers. Newspapers are giving people health advice from experts, forecasts, again from experts, on how long we might all be stuck with this situation, an overall look at readers' states, how elected leaders are (and are not) dealing with the pandemic, humor to aid in coping, and help in getting more information. I hope that, if nothing else, the coronavirus causes us to have a renewed appreciation of the wonder that lands on our doorstep every day.

-0-

Your first press pass

PRESS 1992

COLORADO WORKING PRESS

NO. 1180



Daryl Beall

NAME OF BEARER

Canon City Daily Record

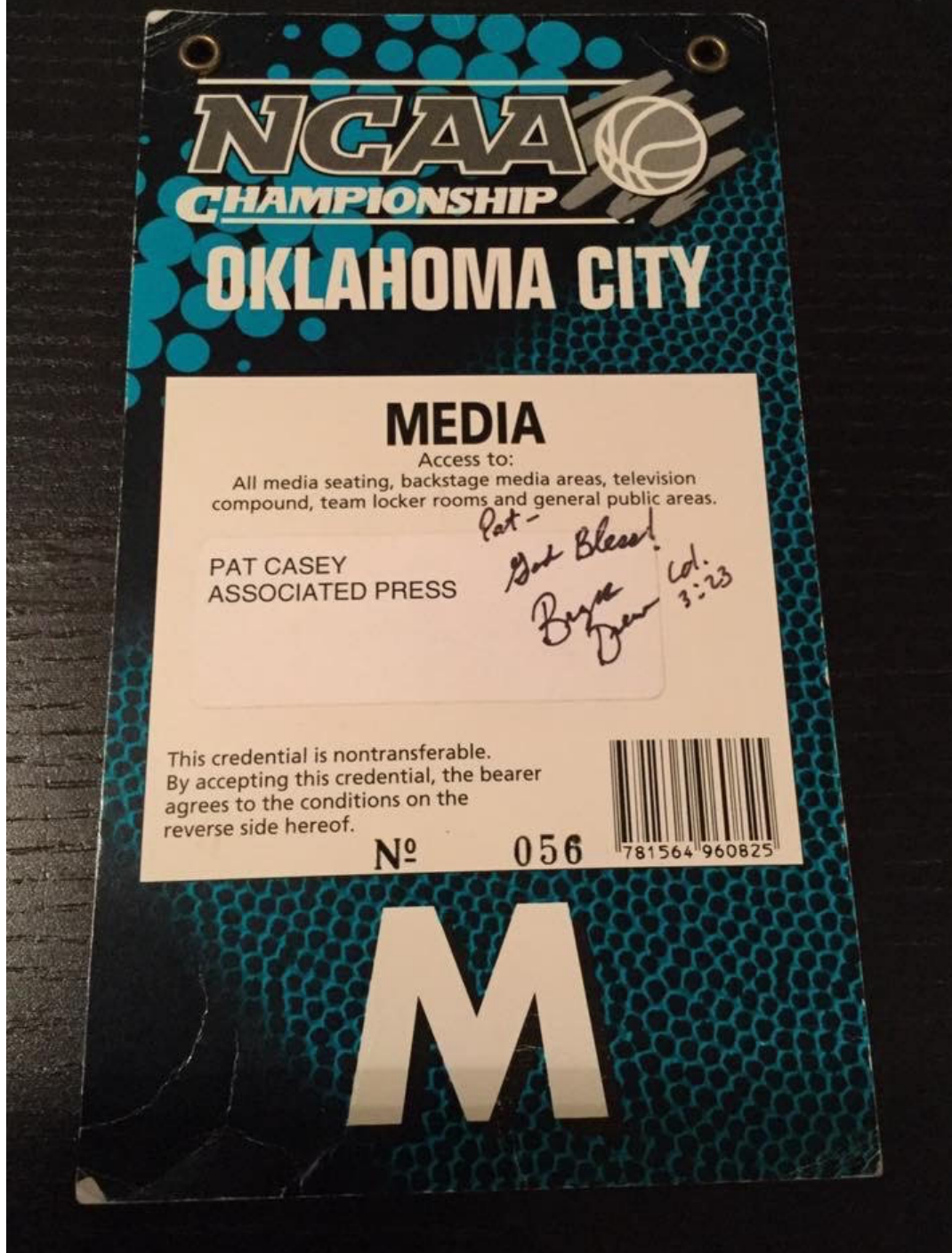
NAME OF NEWS MEDIUM

Mark Thomas

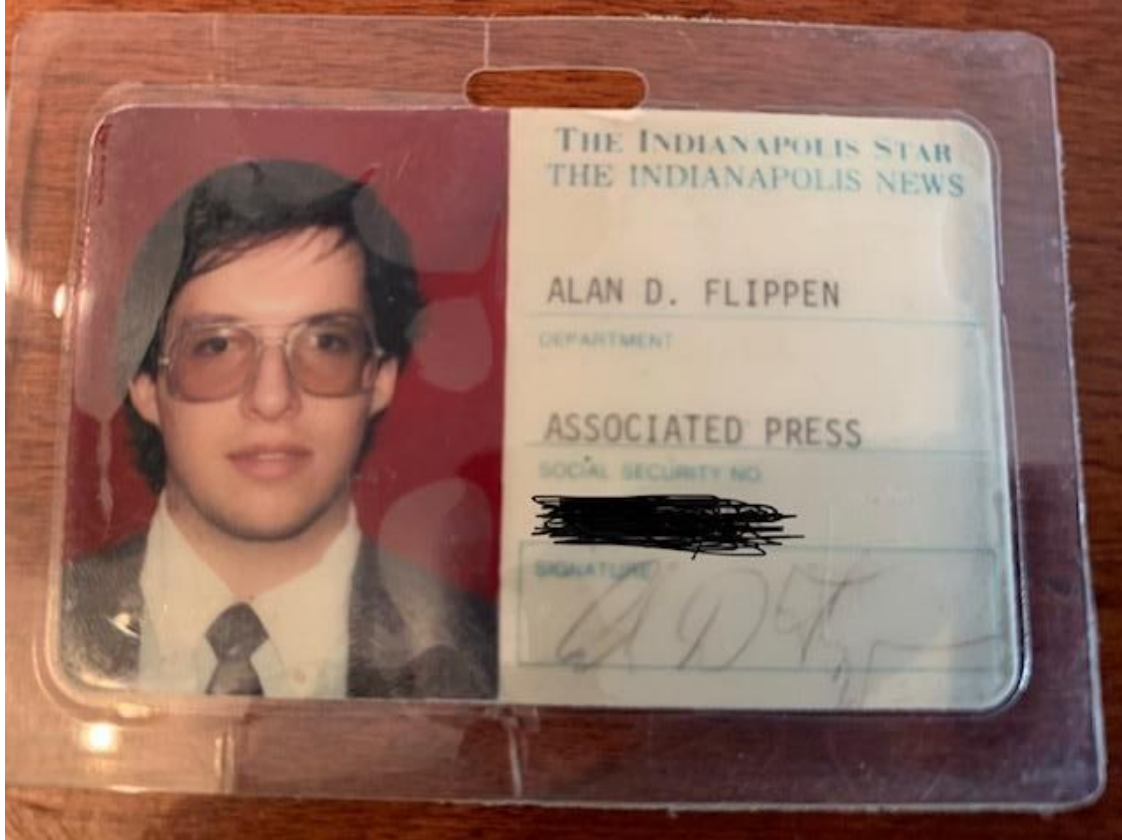
PRESS CREDENTIALS ADMINISTRATOR

(This card expires Jan. 31, 1993)

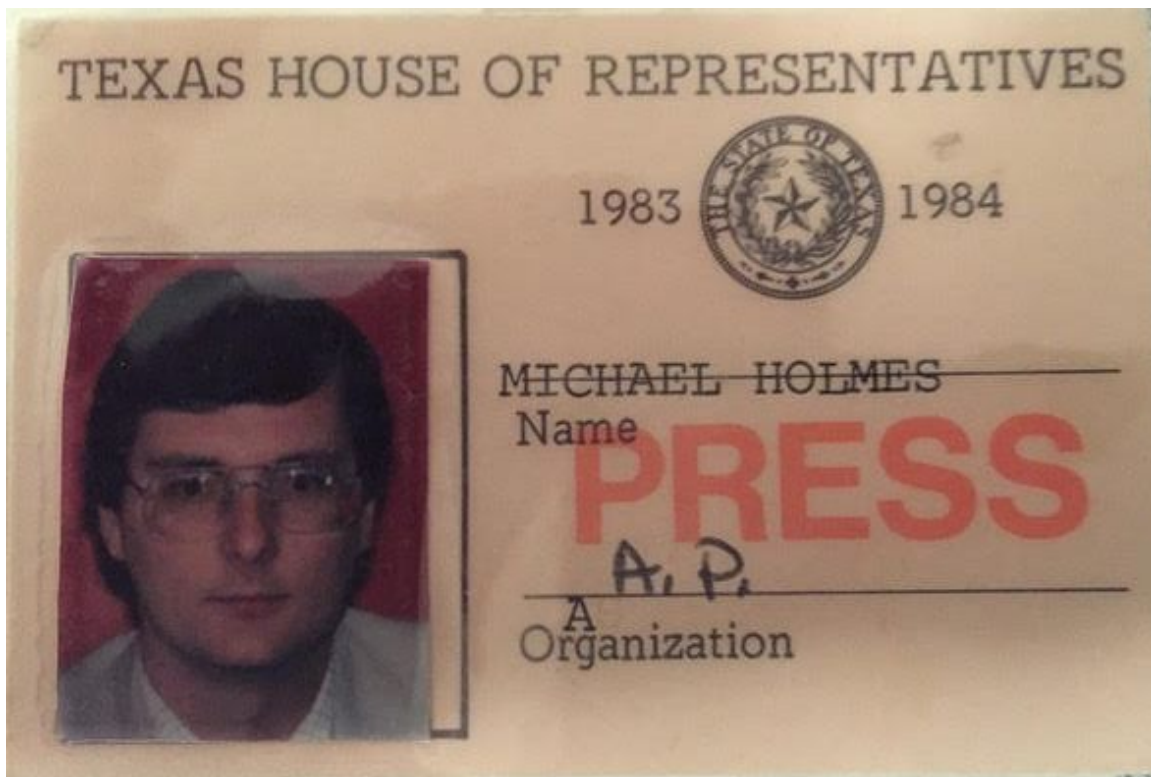
Daryl Beall ([Email](#)) - When I wore a younger man's clothes.



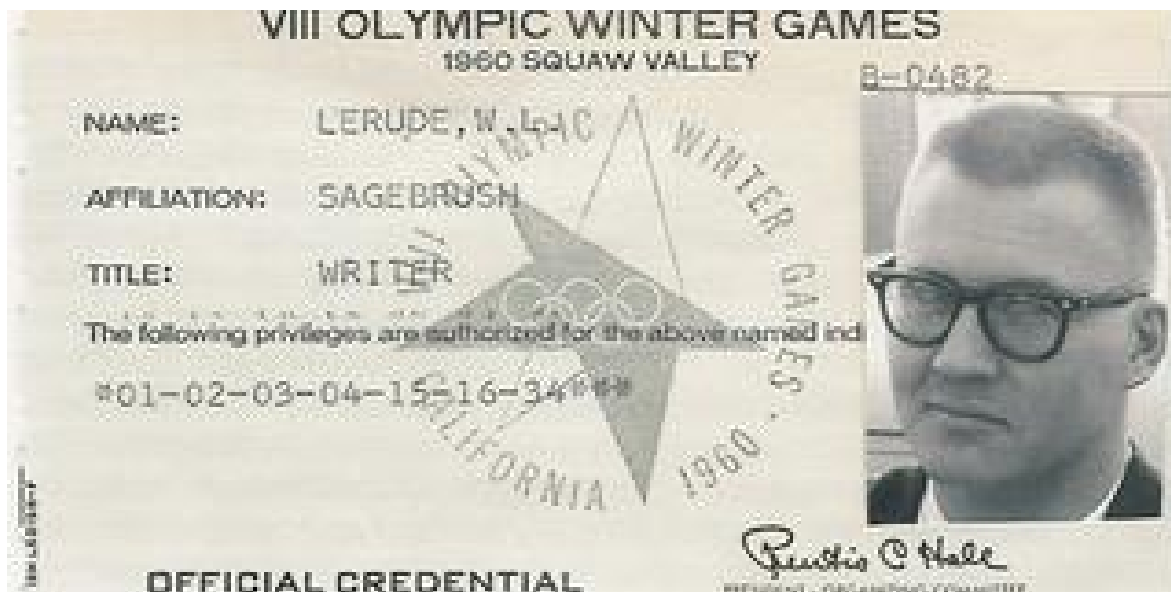
Patrick Casey ([Email](#)) - This press credential came from the first round of the 1998 NCAA Tournament at The Myriad in Oklahoma City on March 13, 1998. I am a Valparaiso University alumnus and was at the game to grab locker-room quotes for our sportswriter and silently root for the 13th-seeded Crusaders. The Myriad went bonkers when Valpo's Bryce Drew hit his now-famous buzzer beater to upset No. 4 seed Mississippi and, of course, to the great amusement of the other reporters, there's no cheering allowed in the press box. I complied as best I could.



Alan Flippen ([Email](#)) – This reflects certain unfortunate trends in hair and eyewear from the 1980s.



Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - When I was named Austin correspondent early in 1984, there was no immediate need for a press pass because the Texas Legislature wasn't in session. (They meet 140 days every other year, believing that governing requires only five months but campaigning takes 19.) The governor soon called a special session, however, and I had to get one. The photographer was a blind legislative staffer, who along with his service dog, operated the camera. And the photos always turned out OK.



Warren Lerude ([Email](#)) - I worked part time for the AP bureau in Reno during college and edited the University of Nevada Reno student paper, the Sagebrush, all without a press pass, so my first actual press pass came from covering the 1960 Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley as a student journalist.

No. 2 E142

P R E S S
東京サミット

NATIONALITY アメリカ 国籍

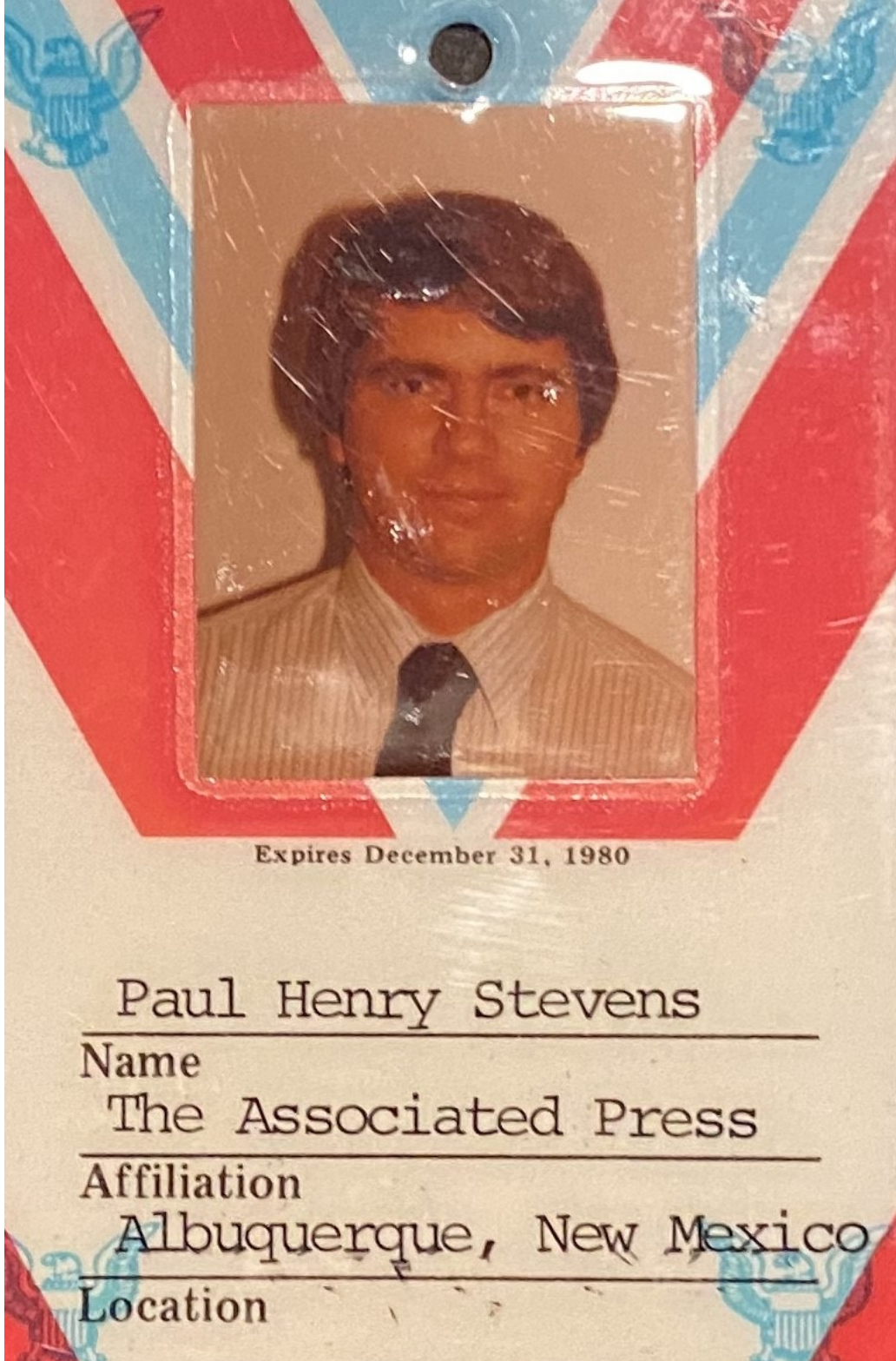
NAME LEUBSDORF C. Philipp 氏名

ORGANIZATION BALTIMORE SUN 所属

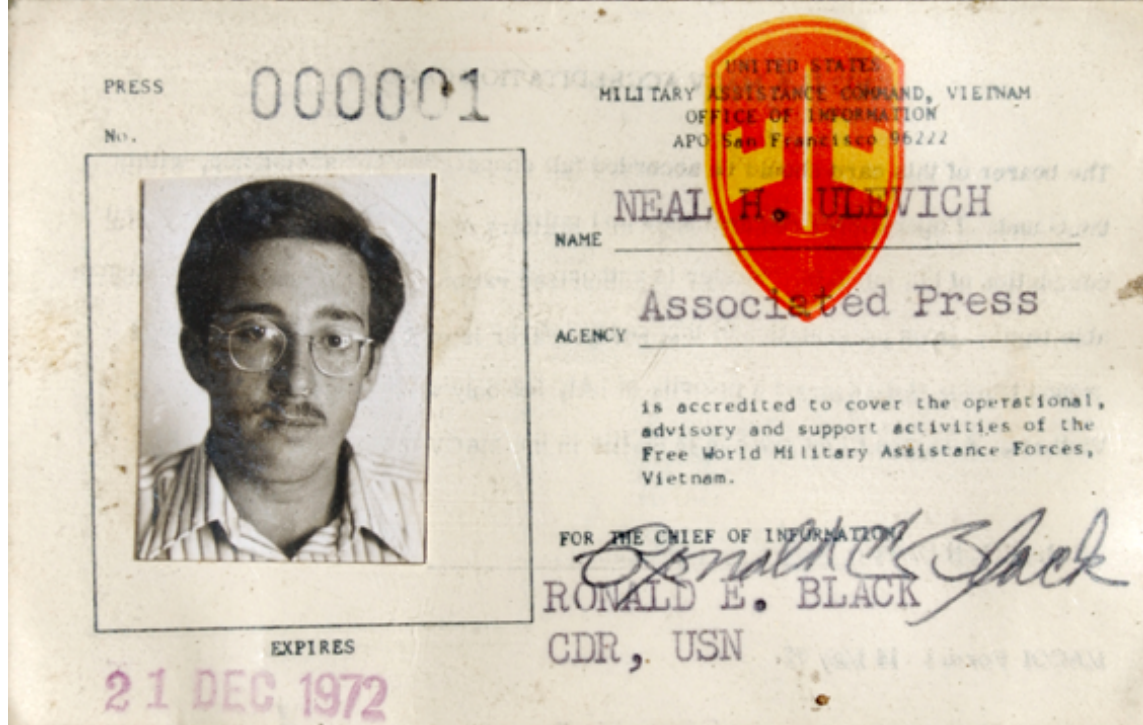


外務省

Carl P. Leubsdorf ([Email](#)) - This one is from the Economic Summit in Tokyo in 1979 (and may be the only pass I ever got that used my middle name instead of my first name).



Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – My first press pass as an AP bureau chief. Photo ID issued by Secret Service, as I recall.



Neal Ulevich ([Email](#)) - A Vietnam MACV press card with a difference: No. 00001. The number reflects the fact that the day I wandered into the Saigon MACV press office was the day they began a new deck of cards.



Nick Ut ([Email](#)) - My Media Passes in Los Angeles.



Michael Weinfeld ([Email](#)) - My first press pass was issued in 1976 for my first job in radio at WINY In Putnam, CT. None other than David Melendy hired me. We went on to be longtime colleagues at AP Radio in Washington. My most unusual press pass didn't have my photo on it at all. Just an image of Michael Jackson's dancing legs. It was issued for my interview with Jackson at a mansion in McLean, VA.

When will we ever learn...?

Norm Abelson ([Email](#)) - Does it take something really awful to make us aware of the wonder of life, to appreciate our good fortune? Does it take fear and foreboding to make us see what immense gifts nature has given us – and the reprehensible way we have repaid those gifts?

It was a thought that crossed my mind as I left the house for the first time in days (for a doctor's appointment). It's usually not very crowded off-season here in this sea-side Maine town. But I noticed Magdelene and I were about the only folks out and about. The doc's office was short-staffed, and there was only one other patient waiting. Without even thinking, the first thing I did was soak my hands in sanitizer. Then I chose a chair as far as possible from the other fellow.

Well we both got good reports, and decided to take the long way home, along the ocean. We always love this ride, but on this cloistered day, we agreed it would be special.

A misty fog was layered above the horizon, barely hiding the sun. Our eyes and ears seemed more attuned to the white caps rushing ashore, to the gulls squawking as they dived for lunch. We talked for a while about the beauty of it

all in the midst of the immense terror and despair caused by an invisible dot that is menacing the entire world.

Harry Truman once said there is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know. I remember my grandmother, Sarah, telling of getting the Spanish flu and surviving it 102 years ago. Fifty long years ago I was running a Ford Foundation-funded program on the advancing dangers to the environment. The first lesson I learned was simple and direct: Everything is connected to everything else. What is concerning is that even when we know the history, we don't seem to learn anything from it.

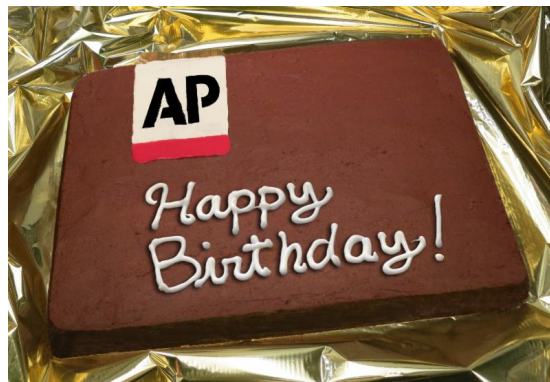
Now as I watched the gulls and cormorants doing what they always have done, I thought about how perfectly all of nature operated and how wonderfully connected – until we came along. Don't get me wrong; I'm more than happy with the life I have lived. And happy about all the folks who have nurtured me and whom I love. But don't you agree that from the planet's point of view, earth would have been a heck of a lot better off without us? Are we nature's only, but huge, mistake?

Seems to me we humans have tried to control this orb rather than to live by its immutable rules, the way all other living things, from tigers to lobsters to butterflies, did - until we came along. As we know, tigers are now endangered, lobsters are rarer and butterflies seem to be disappearing.

Perhaps when we get on the other side of this pandemic (from the Greek pan for all and demos, people), we will have at last learned something. Maybe we will adopt an ideal from the Native American culture – becoming literal caretakers for the creations of nature, rather than merely passive followers of a higher being. The trees and lakes and rivers and mountains and seas and wild creatures and plants. We could practice the related ancient Hebrew injunction of Tikkun Olam, the repair of the world, the obligation to leave it better than we found it.

Or maybe we'll just take a deep breath, congratulate ourselves, and go out for a beer.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Stories of interest

US newspapers urge China not to expel their journalists

BEIJING (AP) — The publishers of three major American newspapers have written an open letter asking China to reverse its recent decision to expel many of their correspondents working in the country.

The letter posted online Tuesday referred to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, saying the expulsions threaten access to information at a time when it is needed most. It was signed by the publishers of The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

“This move — made in retaliation for recent expulsions by the United States government — is one that we would protest under any circumstances,” they wrote. “But it is uniquely damaging and reckless as the world continues the struggle to control this disease, a struggle that will require the free flow of reliable news and information.”

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

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How reporters should handle Trump’s press briefings (Washington Post)



President Trump and Vice President Pence in the James Brady Briefing Room on Monday. (Alex Brandon/AP)

**By Karen Tumulty
Columnist**

In the interest of protecting the nation's health, it is time to socially distance ourselves from the crazy things that President Trump keeps saying.

I've been an enthusiastic advocate of bringing back the daily White House briefings, which Trump's team had basically quit holding some time around the middle of 2018. So I am relieved to see they have resumed and hope they will continue once the coronavirus crisis has passed.

But not the way they are being conducted now, which is as a substitute for the rallies Trump can no longer hold.

As a former White House reporter myself, I respect, in principle, that everything a president says is news. When he speaks, journalists must take note. Those on the social media sidelines who urge that news organizations boycott the briefing room are simply wrong.

The real question is how to report what a president says when it is disconnected from reality.

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

Journalism Needs a Stimulus. Here's What it Should Look Like (Columbia Journalism Review)

By **CRAIG AARON**

THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 HAS UPENDED everything, including business as usual in Washington. In a matter of days, facing the reality of a nationwide shutdown and a worsening economic crisis, Congress got serious about spending money—a lot of it.

A recovery package in the trillions of dollars is expected soon, and more stimulus bills are likely to follow. While the most powerful lobbies in Washington—the airlines, the oil companies, the chambers of commerce—are ready with their wish lists, the media and policymakers aren't talking enough about how recovery and stimulus bills could help journalism.

Free Press, the independent, nonprofit advocacy organization I lead, champions structural solutions to the news business's dire financial problems. We've long campaigned for more federal and state support for public media, opposed media consolidation, and argued that journalism is too important to democracy to be left to the whims of the market.

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

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Fox News Says Two More Employees Tested Positive For Coronavirus; Will Further Restrict In-Studio Guests, In-Office Work (Deadline)

By **TED JOHNSON**

Fox News said Tuesday that two more employees have tested positive for the coronavirus, bringing to six the number of staffers who have contracted the illness.

In a memo to employees today, Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott and president Jay Wallace wrote that one of the employees worked on the 43rd floor and was last in their New York headquarters March 12, and another worked on the 20th floor and was in the office March 20.

“We expect to continue receiving reports of more positive tests given New York is now at the epicenter and we will be communicating to all employees affected who are currently working at 1211 and not able to work remotely,” they wrote. “The vast majority of our workforce is now telecommuting so they have not had to weather the issues around each positive case.”

Today in History – March 25, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, March 25, the 85th day of 2020. There are 281 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On March 25, 1931, in the so-called “Scottsboro Boys” case, nine young black men were taken off a train in Alabama, accused of raping two white women; after years of convictions, death sentences and imprisonment, the nine were eventually vindicated.

On this date:

In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an “army” of unemployed from Massillon (MA'-suh-luhn), Ohio, to Washington, D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1915, the U.S. Navy lost its first commissioned submarine as the USS F-4 sank off Hawaii, claiming the lives of all 21 crew members.

In 1947, a coal-dust explosion inside the Centralia Coal Co. Mine No. 5 in Washington County, Illinois, claimed 111 lives; 31 men survived.

In 1960, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, in New York, ruled that the D.H. Lawrence novel “Lady Chatterley’s Lover” was not obscene and could be sent through the mails. Ray Charles recorded “Georgia on My Mind” as part of his “The Genius Hits the Road” album in New York.

In 1963, private pilot Ralph Flores and his 21-year-old passenger, Helen Klaben, were rescued after being stranded for seven weeks in brutally cold conditions in the Yukon after their plane crashed.

In 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 people to the Alabama state capitol in Montgomery after a five-day march from Selma to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks. Later that day, civil rights activist Viola Liuzzo, a white Detroit homemaker, was shot and killed by Ku Klux Klansmen.

In 1985, “Amadeus” won eight Academy Awards, including best picture, best director for Milos (MEE’-lohsh) Forman and best actor for F. Murray Abraham.

In 1988, in New York City’s so-called “Preppie Killer” case, Robert Chambers Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 18-year-old Jennifer Levin. (Chambers received 5 to 15 years in prison; he was released in 2003 after serving the full sentence.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

In 2018, in an interview with “60 Minutes,” adult film star Stormy Daniels said she had been threatened and warned to keep silent about an alleged sexual encounter with Donald Trump in 2006. A fire at a shopping mall in a Siberian city in Russia killed more than 60 people, including 41 children.

Ten years ago: Osama bin Laden threatened in a new message to kill any Americans al-Qaida captured if the U.S. executed Khalid Sheik Mohammed (HAH’-leed shayk moh-HAH’-med), the self-professed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, or other al-Qaida suspects. Defense Secretary Robert Gates approved new rules easing enforcement of the “don’t ask, don’t tell” ban on gays serving openly in the military. Daisuke Takahashi gave Japan its first men’s title at the World Figure Skating Championships in Turin, Italy.

Five years ago: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani thanked the U.S. Congress for billions of American tax dollars and vowed his war-wracked country would be self-reliant within the decade. British singer Zayn Malik shocked his fans by announcing he was quitting the chart-topping band One Direction.

One year ago: UFC superstar Conor McGregor announced his retirement on social media. Apple announced the launch of a video streaming service, Apple TV Plus, that could compete with Netflix and Amazon with ad-free original series and films.

Today's Birthdays: Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 94. Former astronaut James Lovell is 92. Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 86. Singer Anita Bryant is 80. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 77. Singer Sir Elton John is 73. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 72. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 67. Actor James McDaniel is 62. Former Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., is 62. Movie producer Amy Pascal is 62. Rock musician Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet) is 60. Actress Brenda Strong is 60. Actor Fred Goss is 59. Actor-writer-director John Stockwell is 59. Actress Marcia Cross is 58. Author Kate DiCamillo is 56. Actress Lisa Gay Hamilton is 56. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 55. Baseball Hall of Famer Tom Glavine is 54. TV personality Ben Mankiewicz is 53. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas is 53. Actor Laz Alonso is 49. Singer Melanie Blatt (All Saints) is 45. Actor Domenick Lombardozzi is 44. Actor Lee Pace is 41. Actor Sean Faris is 38. Comedian-actor Alex Moffat (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 38. Former auto racer Danica Patrick is 38. Actress-singer Katharine McPhee is 36. Comedian-actor Chris Redd (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 35. Singer Jason Castro is 33. Rapper Big Sean is 32. Rap DJ-producer Ryan Lewis is 32. Actor Matthew Beard is 31. Actress-singer Aly (AKA Alyson) Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 31. Actor Kiowa Gordon is 30. Actress Seychelle Gabriel is 29.

Thought for Today: "The truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it emotionally." [-] Flannery O'Connor, American author (1925-1964).

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.

Paul Stevens

Editor, Connecting newsletter

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