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## Connecting

April 2, 2020

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**A combination of portraits of Italian doctors and nurses taken during a break or at the end of their shifts in Rome, Bergamo and Brescia, Italy, March 27, 2020. (AP Photo/Domenico Stinellis, Antonio Calanni, Luca Bruno)**

Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of April 2020,

Our colleague **Patrick Maks**, a senior media relations associate with AP in New York, provides five ways to follow AP's coverage of the coronavirus pandemic.

From Italy to Spain and New York to New Orleans, AP journalists around the world are working tirelessly to tell the story of the COVID-19 pandemic in all formats. Photographers, video journalists and reporters in the field continue to practice social distancing and take precautions as they report on the pandemic's impact on health care infrastructure, the economy and daily life around the world.

The five ways:

AP's stories, photos and videos about the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact across the globe can be [found online](#) .

[Understanding the Outbreak](#) : A collection of stories explaining the new coronavirus and what it means to you.

[“One Good Thing”](#) : Stories about the kindness of strangers and individuals who sacrifice for others during the coronavirus outbreak.

[“Ground Game: Inside the Outbreak”](#) : A daily podcast that provides important factual information about COVID-19 through [interviews with AP journalists](#) based in some of the world's hardest hit areas.

[AP Morning Wire](#) , a daily newsletter that features AP's spot, enterprise and investigative journalism and provides a behind-the-scenes look at the newsgathering process.

Notable AP stories about the pandemic include an exclusive all-formats report on the [first coronavirus vaccine test](#) , portraits of [Italy's front-line medical heroes](#) , a review of [testing blunders](#) in the U.S., and a story examining coronavirus [inequality in Latin America](#) .

Today's issue also brings you some great ideas from AP archivist **Francesca Pitaro** on how you can become a volunteer “citizen archivist” with some of the country's most notable organizations.

And the photographic work of our colleague **Suzanne Vlamis** ([Email](#)), the AP's first full-time female staff photographer, is profiled in the latest AP Images blog. Some remarkable work.



**LATEST GROUND GAME** : In hard-hit Spain, which hit a record Wednesday of 864 deaths in one day, the authorities are converting hotels into recovery rooms and building field hospitals in sports centers, libraries and exhibit halls. A skating rink was even turned into a morgue. Host Ralph Russo talks to AP Madrid-based correspondent Aritz Parra about the desperate measures taking place in Spain. Click [here](#) to listen.

I look forward to your contributions. Be safe, be healthy, have a great day!

Paul

## Things to do from home



**Library of Congress**

**Francesca Pitaro** ([Email](#)) - Something I've wanted to do, but haven't gotten around to yet, is to join various efforts to transcribe and tag historical documents to make them more accessible to the public.

Many libraries and museums are looking for volunteer "citizen archivists" to make their digital documents searchable and available to a wider audience. Projects include everything from suffrage records and FDR speeches to numismatic collections. My sister has been working on tagging botanical specimens from the herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden. I've included that one and a few other sites on this list.

Click on each for a link to find out more on volunteering.

[New York Botanical Garden](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

## Close Up: Photographer Suzanne Vlamis



Suzanne Vlamis in 1976. (AP Photo courtesy Corporate Archives)

Suzanne Vlamis was the AP's first full-time female staff photographer. Hired in 1973, when women photographers were routinely channeled to "women's stories," Vlamis defied stereotypes and broke barriers.

She covered Super Bowls, Olympic Games and President Richard M. Nixon's 1974 trip to the Soviet Union. In 1977, covering President Jimmy Carter's inauguration, she shot some of the first photos of the Carter family walking the inaugural route on Pennsylvania Avenue, the first time a president had ever done so.

Click [here](#) to view more.

## **Connecting mailbox**

***Greeting the delivery man (carefully)***



Hal Buell keeps his social distance as a delivery man makes a stop.

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***Those were the days - Fond memory of a  
Congratulations card***

*and we want  
to be the first to  
congratulate you.*

*This is an  
appropriate time  
to congratulate you  
on the attached news  
item. It's good to  
see your name in print.*

From all of us  
at

*The Bank of Marion*

 *The Bank of Marion*  
300 PUBLIC SQUARE · MARION, ILLINOIS 62959



## Managing editor appointed

Stan Meyer, general manager of the Marion Daily Republican, today named Helen Sosniecki as managing editor.

Mrs. Sosniecki who came to the Daily Republican in November, 1974 from the Jackson, Tenn., Sun is wire news editor of the Daily Republican, and in her new capacity will be in direct charge of the news department, assuming some of the responsibilities in that area heretofore handled by the general manager.



**Helen Sosniecki**

In announcing the appointment, Meyer said, "I am happy to have within our own staff an individual of the high qualifications of Mrs. Sosniecki to take charge of this position."

The new managing editor is a 1973 graduate of the outstanding University of Missouri School of Journalism where she earned the bachelor of journalism degree with a news-editorial major. She worked as a copy editor, feature writer, circuit court reporter and religion reporter for the Columbia Missourian while in the university. At Jackson, Tenn. she was a copy editor and later assistant chief of the copy desk.

A native of Clinton, Mo., she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Stephens of Clinton Rt. 3. Her father is a building contractor.

Her husband, Gary, to whom she was married in 1973, is sports editor of the Southern Illinoisan.

**Gary and Helen Sosniecki ( [Email](#) )** - We've been sorting through boxes that moved with us from house to house, town to town, during our four-decade newspaper career. A flood of memories greets us as we open each box. One box included a greeting card from a local bank congratulating Helen on her 1979 promotion from wire editor to managing editor of the Marion Daily Republican in Illinois. The cover screams "YOU made the NEWS!" Inside is a laminated clipping – yellowed from age – of the Daily Republican story announcing the promotion. (It's been a long time since I've seen congratulatory cards like this one, perhaps because such life-changing events appear more often now on social media than in the newspaper. But they were popular at one time with banks, dentists, optometrists and even funeral homes.)

The Daily Republican was a UPI paper then, and UPI Southern Illinois bureau chief Sam Hancock had an office adjoining the newsroom. Inside the same box were a couple of stubs from checks Helen received for contributing stories to UPI and a stub from an AP check Gary received working at the competing Southern Illinoisan in Carbondale.

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## ***About the lime in the Corona***

**Joe Frazier ( [Email](#) )** - Saw Neal Ulevich's brief blurb on Mexico's Corona beer and the chunk of lime that often is stuffed down the neck of the bottle. I spent 10 years with AP in Mexico and through prayer and deep study concluded Corona isn't the best the country produces, it isn't even close. I can rattle off a handful of better ones.

Back to the lime chunk: In my time there I heard frequently that the function of the lime was initially at least to keep flies from crawling into the bottle. True,

they don't drink much but I was. Told that often enough to find it at least plausible. The lime slice is not limited to Corona

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*So very and sadly true*



**Gary Harki** ✓  
@GaryAHarki



Journalism is now sitting in your house working feverishly on the bleakest of stories while waiting to see if you're laid off or furloughed.

9:34 PM · 3/31/20 · [Twitter Web App](#)

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**Scott Charton** ([Email](#)) – Spotted this Tweet from Gary Harki, investigative reporter, The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk. He was named the Virginia Press Association's Outstanding Journalist in 2017.

**AP coverage done carefully in age of coronavirus**





Radio reporter Julie Walker holds her extra-long microphone stick designed for social distancing while covering a nurses demonstration at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, March 28, 2020. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

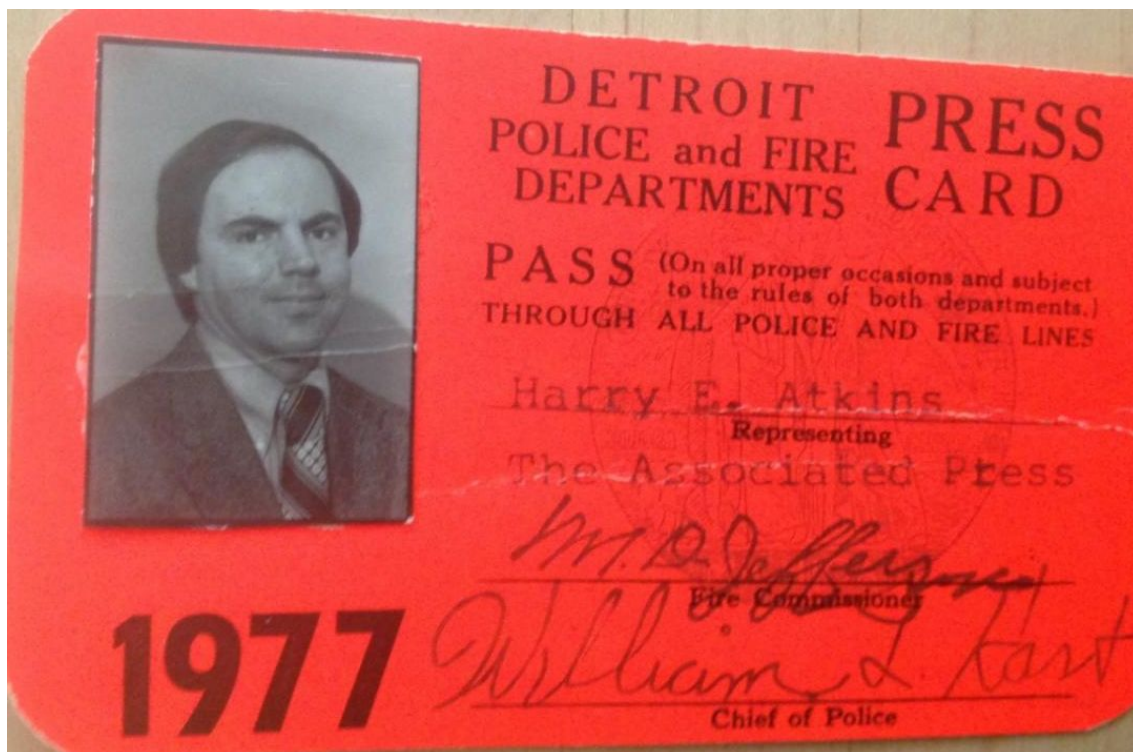


Photographer Vincent Thian, right, poses for a photo next to soldiers in face masks at a checkpoint in Putrajaya, Malaysia, March 22, 2020. (Photo courtesy Vincent Thian)

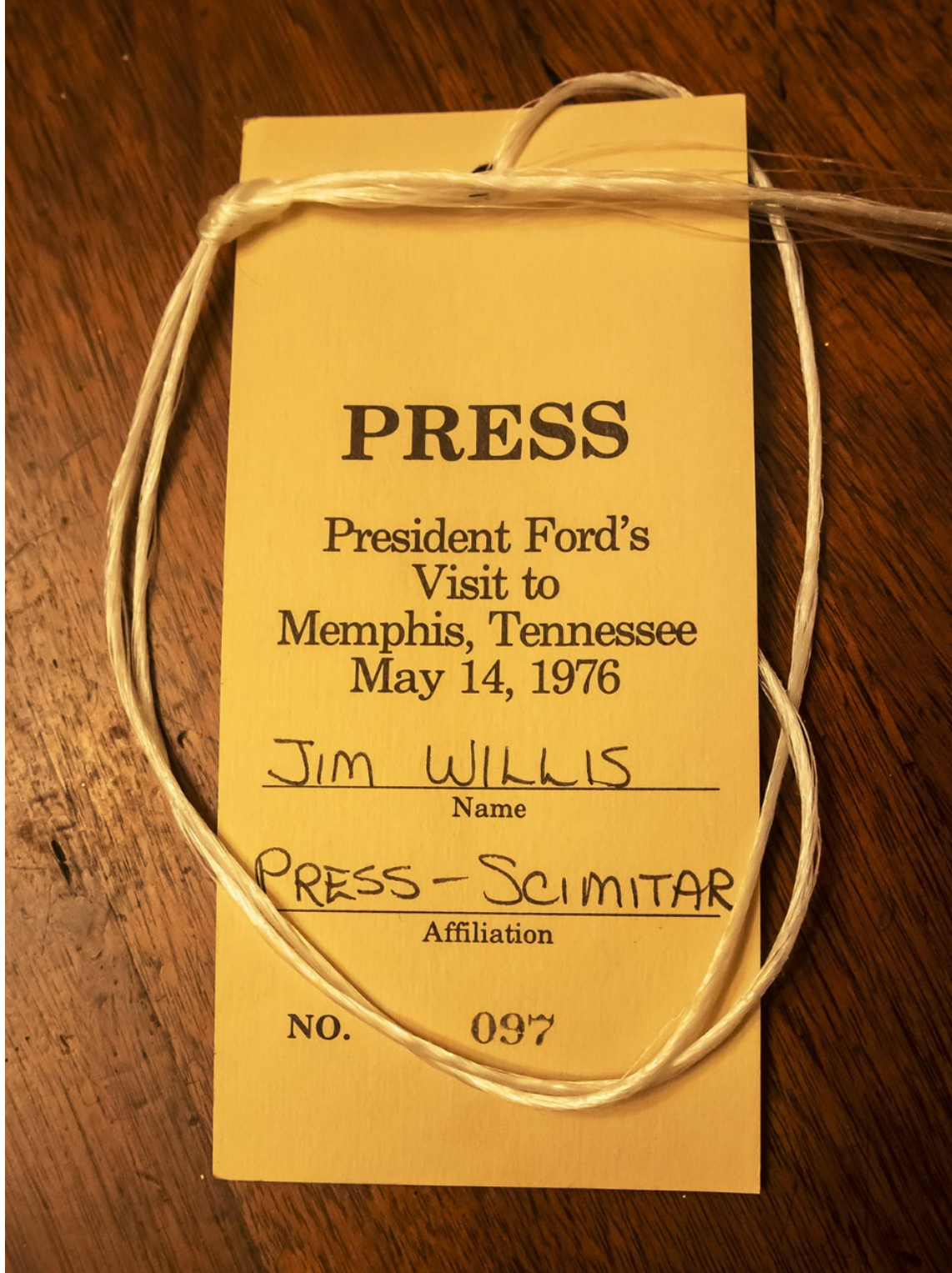


Video journalist Ted Shaffrey disinfects a microphone using isopropyl alcohol and a cotton swab in between interviewing traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, March 17, 2020, in New York. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

## Your first press cards



**Harry Atkins** ([Email](#)) - I joined AP in 1971 and stayed 29 years. Somehow, I can only find 12 of those 29 ID cards and this is the earliest. I seem to have gone from bad hair to almost no hair. Oh, well. Onward and upward!



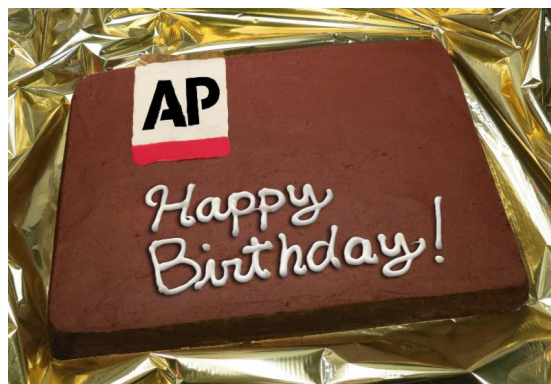
**Jim Willis** ([Email](#)) – Cleaning out some files recently, I found this press pass issued to me by the Secret Service in 1976. I don't remember jumping through any hoops to get it, so I'm sure the credentialing process for a presidential visit must be tighter now.



*And a press pass that's 111 years old...*

**Paul Albright** ([Email](#)) - Forwarded to me by a friend, Marc Hermann: Arnold A. Mowbray was born on August 2, 1891. As a young man, he worked for the Brooklyn Eagle as an occasional contributor, and his regular beat included Bay Ridge, as a reporter for the "Home Talk" community paper. During WWI, he served as a typist for the 152nd Depot Brigade at Camp Upton, L.I., before he went into business and industrial fields. He retired to Florida, where he died on March 31, 1981. 39 years ago today. His 1909 press card arrived in my collection this evening. The card is signed by City Editor Chauncey C. Brainerd, who was killed with his wife and 96 others in the collapse of a snow-laden roof at the Knickerbocker Theater in Washington, D.C., in 1922.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

## Stories of interest

### *Life-saving news needs a stimulus*



**A bust of Joseph Pulitzer wears a mask in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch newsroom. (Photo by David Carson)**

### **From The NewsGuild-CWA Executive Council**

News-gathering operations are essential for a well-functioning society, especially in times of crisis.

However, many newsrooms have been reduced to skeletal staffs and some have disappeared altogether.

Declining advertising revenue, leveraged corporate consolidations, and asset stripping by vulture capitalists have put this industry under financial duress. Now the physical distancing designed to slow the spread of COVID-19 is triggering business slowdowns and further eroding advertising revenues.

The NewsGuild Executive Council unanimously passed a resolution calling for federal, state, provincial, and local governments to provide public funds to

sustain news operations.

Public stimulus funds are quite possibly the only way to ensure long-term viability for these vital news-gathering operations.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Martha Waggoner.

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## ***Some Oregon newspapers stop printing, cut jobs and hours amid coronavirus crisis***

(Oregon.live)

**By Mike Rogoway**

Amidst one of Oregon's biggest news stories in decades, many of the state's news organizations are shutting down the presses and laying off staff.

Rarely has the appetite for Oregon news been higher. Outlets report their online traffic has doubled or tripled, but the state's sudden economic catastrophe has devastated the advertising revenue many publications depend on.

In Portland, Salem, Bend and Baker City, newspapers have cut jobs in the past few weeks even as they raced to cover the perilous coronavirus outbreak and its wrenching effect on Oregon communities.

"Information is valuable. These news organizations are essential," lamented Todd Milbourn, co-director of the journalism master's program at the University of Oregon. "So it's heartbreaking to see these pullbacks at this moment when we need this information the most."

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

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## ***Fund local news like the critical infrastructure it is, and start now*** (Medium)

**By LIZZY HAZELTINE**

As we think about what we need in North Carolina to get through the coronavirus crisis, individually and collectively, we need to include our local news providers in our thinking and our immediate relief efforts. These organizations are critical infrastructure for healthy communities. Their lives and business have been upended even as our need for their service intensifies.

Craig Silverman, BuzzFeed's media reporter, outlined in a piece last week that "while journalists may be performing an essential business, the business of journalism is facing an extinction-level threat." Based on cratering local ad revenue, he surmises that the pandemic may be worse for the availability of local news than the 2008 recession.

And that's awful news for us.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Richard Chady.

## The Final Word

### *Opening Day is nowhere in sight*



**The Washington Nationals celebrate after Game 7 of the baseball World Series against the Houston Astros Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2019, in Houston. The Nationals won 6-2 to win the series. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip)**

**By Carl P. Leubsdorf ( [Email](#) )**

It took the nation's capital 95 years to regain its place atop the baseball world, and just three weeks to call off the celebration.

This Thursday, the World Series championship banner was to be hoisted above a packed Nationals Park. But alas, it is not to be, the season's opener yet another victim of the dreaded coronavirus, which has already claimed more than 3,000 lives and brought the entire country to its economic knees.

Baseball fans can hardly claim that delaying the start of the 2020 Major League baseball season is anywhere close to this deadly visitor's most serious impact, when so many fellow Americans are suffering possibly fatal physical distress and hopefully curable economic woes.

But even in an era in which professional football has displaced baseball as the nation's No. 1 spectator sport, baseball retains a special place in American life. Its season still mirrors the cycle of life, from the hopeful new beginnings each Spring to the bitter end for all but one team in the chilly days of Autumn.

That is especially true for those of us old enough to recall the pre-television days when baseball was king and football in college campus stadiums drew far more attention than the play-for-pay version that often unfolded on urban fields used primarily for baseball.

Opening Day is always special. But this one loomed as especially so, one to which Washington sports fans looked forward all winter. After all, aside from the multi-champion New York Yankees of yore, how often does any city get to see the raising of the ultimate emblem of baseball success at its local park?

Last October's thrilling victory over the Houston Astros, whose own 2017 flag was later revealed to be tainted, was especially memorable, a once-in-a-lifetime event so greatly enjoyed because it was so unexpected. Five times in four rounds, the Nationals overcame late inning deficits to win games where defeats would have meant elimination.

As noted at the time, Washington's first World Series since a 1933 defeat came at a time of sports renewal for a city whose cellar dwelling reputation was once exemplified by the slogan: "First in war, first in peace, and last in the American League."

Though its once mighty NFL Redskins remain dormant and its NBA Wizards consistently lame, 2018 saw the Capitals finally win hockey's Stanley Cup for the first time in their 44-year existence. In 2019, they were joined as champions by the WNBA's Mystics.

And general manager Mike Rizzo's smarts and the Lerner family's resources built a baseball team that captured a division title less than a decade after 34 years of longing finally resulted in the acquisition of a franchise moved from Montreal. But ultimate success was elusive; four times in six years, the team's hopes were snuffed out in the first playoff round.

This time, though, the baseball gods were with Washington. Youthful star Juan Soto's double skipped past a rookie Milwaukee outfielder's grasp to win the wild-card game, veteran Howie Kendrick's 10th inning grand slam stunned the mighty Los Angeles Dodgers, and another Kendrick homer glanced decisively off the Houston ballpark's right field foul pole. Late one chilly October night, the Nationals inexplicably won it all.



And after a winter in which many of these triumphs were repeatedly replayed on the team's local cable channel, the team's 2020 version seemed fully prepared to seek what has become a most elusive baseball goal, a back-to-back title.

Its four ace starters were back and healthy. The once shaky bullpen had been fortified. Rizzo did his usually expert job of finding affordable new role pieces. And he had groomed a prize rookie, Carter Kieboom, to replace star third baseman Anthony Rendon, decamped for greener pastures in southern California.

Then, just two weeks before their opener in New York and three weeks before the planned celebration in Washington, the new season abruptly stopped, as sports joined the rest of American life in confronting the new world of social distancing.

At the hour this Thursday when many of us had planned to be in our seats at Nationals Park to watch the raising of the long-sought flag and to cheer when either Max Scherzer or Stephen Strasburg took the mound, the stadium will be empty. So will be the surrounding streets.

Instead of Opening Day, the team's local broadcast outlet will reshew last October's break-through wild-card game. The end of the pause is not yet in sight.

And though it means the Nationals may remain baseball's champions longer than they or their rivals had planned, it's hardly what the team, its fans or the country would prefer.

## Today in History – April 2, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, April 2, the 93rd day of 2020. There are 273 days left in the year.

## Today's Highlight in History:

On April 2, 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, because of advancing Union forces.

### On this date:

In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon and his expedition landed in present-day Florida. (Some historians say the landing actually occurred the next day, on April 3.)

In 1792, Congress passed the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

In 1912, the just-completed RMS Titanic left Belfast to begin its sea trials eight days before the start of its ill-fated maiden voyage.

In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy." (Congress declared war four days later.)

In 1956, the soap operas "As the World Turns" and "The Edge of Night" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1958, the term "beatnik" was coined by San Francisco Chronicle columnist Herb Caen (cayn) to refer to members of the pre-hippie counterculture; the term was inspired by the "Beat Generation" and by the Soviet launch of its second Sputnik spacecraft.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed into law a windfall profits tax on the oil industry. (The tax was repealed in 1988.)

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers, including an 8-month-old girl, her mother and grandmother, were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 2002, Israel seized control of Bethlehem; Palestinian gunmen forced their way into the Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, where they began a 39-day standoff.

In 2003, during the Iraq War, American forces fought their way to within sight of the Baghdad skyline.

In 2005, Pope John Paul II died in his Vatican apartment at age 84.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, visiting a factory in Charlotte, North Carolina, hailed a new government report showing the most jobs created in nearly three years, saying, "We are beginning to turn the corner." Gunmen seeking to pass themselves off as U.S. and Iraqi soldiers raided a Sunni village outside Baghdad, killing at least 24 people in an execution-style attack. Ohio State junior swingman Evan Turner was the runaway choice as The Associated Press' college basketball player of the year; Syracuse's Jim Boeheim (BAY'-hym) was the AP's college basketball coach of the year.

Five years ago: Capping a week of difficult negotiations, the United States, Iran and five other world powers said they had agreed on an outline of limits on Iran's nuclear program that would prevent it from developing nuclear weapons in exchange for sanctions relief. Al-Shabab gunmen rampaged through a college in northeastern Kenya, killing at least 148 people. A Russian trawler, the Dalny Vostok, sank in just 15 minutes in icy waters off Russia's Far Eastern coast, killing at least 56 crew members. Rev. Robert H. Schuller, 88, died in Artesia, California. Stanford won its second NIT title, edging Miami 66-64.

One year ago: Former federal prosecutor Lori Lightfoot won the runoff election for Chicago mayor, becoming the first black woman and the first openly gay person to lead the nation's third-largest city. Police near Los Angeles arrested a man they said had fatally shot rapper Nipsey Hussle and evaded authorities for two days; police said the two men knew each other and had some sort of personal dispute in the hours before the rapper was killed. Lawmakers in New Zealand voted overwhelmingly in favor of new gun restrictions, including a ban on the types of weapons used by a gunman to kill 50 people at two mosques the previous month. A judge in Pennsylvania sentenced three former Penn State fraternity members to jail in the 2017 death of a pledge who drank heavily before being fatally injured in a series of falls; they were the first defendants ordered to serve time behind bars in a case that brought a new state anti-hazing law.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sharon Acker is 85. Actress Dame Penelope Keith is 80. Actress Linda Hunt is 75. Singer Emmylou Harris is 73. Actor Sam Anderson is 73. Social critic and author Camille Paglia is 73. Actress Pamela Reed is 71. Rock musician Dave Robinson (The Cars) is 71. Country singer Buddy Jewell is 59. Actor Christopher Meloni is 59. Singer Keren Woodward (Bananarama) is 59. Country singer Billy Dean is 58. Actor Clark Gregg is 58. Actress Jana Marie Hupp is 56. Rock musician Greg Camp is 53. Rock musician Tony Fredianelli (Third Eye Blind) is 51. Actress Roselyn Sanchez is 47. Country singer Jill King is 45. Actor Pedro Pascal is 45. Actor Adam Rodriguez is 45. Actor Jeremy Garrett is 44. Actor Michael Fassbender is 43. Actress Jaime Ray Newman is 42. Rock musician Jesse Carmichael (Maroon 5) is 41. Actress Bethany Joy Lenz is 39. Singer Lee Dewyze (TV: "American Idol") is 34. Country singer Chris Janson is 34. Actor Drew Van Acker is 34. Actress Briga Heelan (TV: "Great News") is 33. Actor Jesse Plemons is 32. Singer Aaron Kelly (TV: "American Idol") is 27.

**Thought for Today: "Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little." [-] Agnes de Mille, American dancer-choreographer (1905-1993).**

# 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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