

Connecting - April 06, 2020

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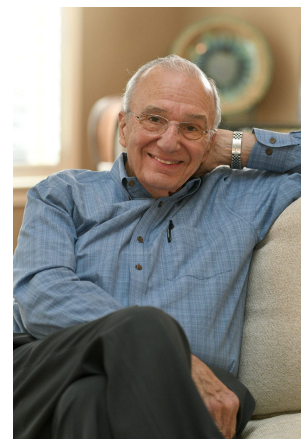


Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 6th day of April 2020,

We lead today's issue with a Monday Profile on our colleague **Harry Moskos**, who distinguished himself as an AP newsman and chief of bureau and as a newspaperman in New Mexico, Texas and Tennessee.

Harry filed his profile story from Knoxville, Tenn., where he and his wife **Victoria** are – like most of the nation – in isolation with the COVID-19 outbreak: “Not going out to eat, shopping only at a grocery store. More time watching TV or being at the computer. Watching church services online. Healthwise, we are OK!”



We bring you the sad news of the death of colleague **Dan Hamrick**, like Harry both an AP journalist and newspaperman, who died Saturday at the age of 83. (Coronavirus was not involved in his death.) His son **Mark Hamrick**, a frequent Connecting contributor, brings us the story of his father and how he was instrumental in Mark's own successful AP career.

Connecting published a special Saturday edition on the death of **Nick Jesdanun**, the first member of our AP family to die from COVID-19. Nick, deputy technology editor in New York and a 29-year AP veteran, died last

Thursday at the age of 51. His supervisor, current AP technology editor **David Hamilton**, called Nick “an amazingly knowledgeable writer, a meticulous editor and a hugely supportive colleague. He leaves a huge hole in our work and our lives that we haven’t even begun to comprehend.”

Our colleague **Ted Anthony** ([Email](#)) wrote [the AP story](#) on his death, a remarkable story, I might add, and I asked Ted how they first met.

“When I moved from the Charleston WV bureau to Pittsburgh in 1993, I was his numerical replacement. We overlapped for a few weeks before he transferred to Harrisburg. I sublet his apartment. I’ve known him since then on and off, working together intermittently in the usual AP ways.

“I was struck and deeply heartened by the reaction of the AP diaspora to this. People who knew Nick, people who’d worked with him remotely, those who’d never met him at all or met him once years ago or just knew his work – all were suddenly united (or reunited) by this loss. So many reached out to me, but I was just a conduit; more importantly, so many reached out to each other on the very networks that Nick covered. The term ‘the AP family’ never seemed more appropriate to me than it did on Friday. It was a great tonic at a moment where, though stitched together by technology we might be, we are also in some ways very alone.”



AP GROUND GAME: What do Americans think of how Trump has handled the pandemic? What about their state and local governments? AP Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace and Director of Public Opinion Research Emily Swanson explain the results of several new surveys.

Listen [here](#).

Be safe, be healthy, stay positive and here’s to a great week ahead!

Paul

Connecting Profile

Harry Moskos



Harry Moskos and his wife Victoria

What are you doing these days?

Retired. Enjoying life with my wife of 58 years and our grandchildren.

How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?

I started at the Albuquerque Tribune at age 16 during the summer between my junior and senior years of high school. I was always interested in newspapers. After getting off the school bus at middle school (appropriately named Ernie Pyle Junior High) I would catch the city bus to go to my father's shoe repair shop to sweep out the store and then come home with my mother and father. We lived on the west side and his shop was on the east side so I would buy the afternoon Albuquerque Tribune to read on the across town bus ride. (The morning Albuquerque Journal was home-delivered to our house.) I applied at the Tribune in June of 1953 and when the receptionist asked what I wanted, I told her I would like to apply for a job in the newsroom as copy boy or anything else. She said she would be right back and when she returned, she said come with me and I'll introduce you to the editor, Dan Burrows. Obviously, the interview went well because a week later he called me said they had just signed a contract with United Press (not UPI at that time) for telephoto service and would I be interested in a job operating the machine. I rushed right down. In addition, I started doing other things on my own such as opening and distributing the mail and writing stories. When school started, they said I could work on Saturdays and also on Sunday during football season. (Also noted I could work additional hours as long as I did not go over 40 hours.) That is the way it was for my senior year in high school and the four years at the University of New Mexico.

After graduating from UNM in 1958 I went full time. In 1959 I was approached by Jim Barber to become editor of a five-day daily he had just started by buying two competing weeklies in Grants, New Mexico. I had no idea how he knew about me but I took the job. In 1960, Bill Richardson, the AP bureau chief in Albuquerque, offered me a job as a newsman. I got to know the AP folks quite well because the bureau office and the Tribune's telephoto machine were located on the third floor of the building. After joining the AP, Richardson told me he had asked Burrows for permission to offer me a position with the AP but was denied permission to offer me a job. Thus, Richardson contacted Barber but said they would hire me away from him in a year or so.

The job was interesting, challenging, but I enjoyed every bit of it. Cannot recall any issues or problems.

What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?



The AP Bureau staff in Honolulu. Malcolm Barr is seated at the teletype. Harry (left) and James Lagier standing.

My original job with the AP was as a newsman in the bureau office. In 1961 I was named state editor, more or less second in command in the office. My duties were to report and edit news and, of course, to be of service to the state newspapers that subscribed to the AP. Wes Gallagher came to Albuquerque for some reason (I can't recall why) but we seem to hit it off. Got married in 1962 and then in 1963 I was told to come to a meeting in New York and the AP informed me I was being promoted to bureau chief in Honolulu. Fortunately, I had two outstanding staffers in Honolulu: Malcolm Barr and James Lagier.

(One interesting aspect in Honolulu was that one of the radio stations had been sold to George Mardikian, the Armenian restaurant man who owned Omar Khayyam's in San Francisco, and was very close to UP. George and I clicked and we became good friends. He kept his Honolulu station with the AP, noting that "blood was thicker than water."

What was the biggest story or stories you covered?



Harry standing four people way from President Charles de Gaulle when he came to Papeete, Tahiti in 1968 for the French nuclear test.

Christmas Eve 1968: The crew of the USS Pueblo had been released by the North Koreans and when the crew arrived on American soil at Midway Island, I was there. Only four journalists were there: one print reporter, one print photographer, one TV newsman and one TV camera man. The four of us were the lucky ones – we won the coin tosses, The last sentence of my story

noted that Cmdr. Lloyd Bucher was presented a new commander's hat and he smiled holding back tears , repeatedly saying "thank you." New York mailed me a teletype copy of the story with the words "thank you" circled with the notation: "This to you too."

In 1991, at Christmas time, I interviewed Bucher again by telephone for my weekly column in the News-Sentinel.

Who played the most significant role in your career and how?

Well, of course, the receptionist who took me to see Dan Burrows, Bill Richardson, Wes Gallagher, Louis Boccardi, Roy Steinfort, Lou Kramp and many other AP members and of the Scripps and Howard families as well as their management team, especially Ralph Looney at the Tribune who later was named editor of Scripps' Rocky Mountain News. James Wessel wrote in a 1968 letter to bureau chiefs that Steinfort "said he has never seen a harder-working bureau chief than Harry Moskos."

Interesting that in my whole work career I never filled out a job application form. Other than the first visit to the Tribune I was always approached by the employer.

Would you do it all over again- or what would you change?



With President Clinton

No, it was a happy career. I will add that while in Honolulu, I was contacted by the Albuquerque Tribune to see if I wanted to return as city editor (third in command). I accepted the offer in 1969 because I thought I could become editor of my hometown newspaper. In 1973 I was named managing editor (second in command). Then in 1980, Scripps named me editor of the El Paso

Herald-Post. In 1984 I was promoted to editor of the larger Knoxville News-Sentinel and continued in that position until reaching the mandatory retirement age of 65 in 2001. In 2002 because of my father-in-law's health issues we returned to Albuquerque and I accepted a position with the Albuquerque Journal as columnist, editorial page staffer, and editorial board member. We returned to Knoxville in 2007 to be with family.

When the AP story announcing that George Zucker was replacing me as chief of bureau Honolulu, the story pointed out that I "was instrumental in establishing Hawaii's first Greek Orthodox Church."

Yes, we were involved immensely. We were surprised there was no Orthodox Church of any time (Greek, Russian, etc.) and were fortunate that Archbishop Iakovos was coming through Honolulu en route to Japan and we got him to do a service using an Episcopal church. This started organizing the Orthodox faithful living in Hawaii and then he got the military to assign an Orthodox chaplain to Honolulu and things took off from there. Must make it clear many were involved but the fact I was transferred to Hawaii certainly played a role. (Coincidentally, when we moved to El Paso there was no Greek Orthodox Church but one was started just as we were getting transferred to Knoxville.)

What's your favorite hobby or activity?

Reading newspapers! Being with my wife, Victoria. Daily walking for one hour.

What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?

My wife and I are Greek Orthodox and actually met at the church in Albuquerque. We have been on several trips to Istanbul to visit the Ecumenical Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church. One of the trips was at the time when Pope Benedict visited Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Names of your family members and what they do?

Victoria and I have three children and 12 grandchildren. One daughter (Xrisanthe) and her family live in Charleston, South Carolina. Another daughter (Areti) and her family live in Knoxville. Our son (Matthew) and his family live in Chula Vista, Calif. (Our second daughter was delivered by the same doctor who delivered Barack Obama at the same hospital. It gave me a chance to attack the birthers with a column pointing out the same wording on certificates of live birth, doctor/clinic/hospital names, newspaper announcement, etc.)

Two more things...

One other aspect of my career is comic strips. Yes, I read the comics. And my name has appeared in several comic strips including Crock, Out of Bonds, That's Jake, Alley Oop, Geech, Luann. Two stories about comics: First one, I mentioned when I started at the Tribune I started doing more things without being told. While opening the mail and sorting out of town papers I noticed that the New York World Telegram and Sun had an interesting comic strip I hadn't

seen before. I then told my new boss, Mr. Burrows, there is a funny comic strip we should add. I said it is called, "Peanuts." He liked my suggestion and added it to the Tribune's comics. Second one: While in El Paso, a syndicate sales representative made an appointment to see me. When he came, he showed me a new comic strip and asked what I thought about it. After reading the samples, I said I wasn't impressed. I asked him if he had any other samples to show me. He replied, "no." He explained that he flew out just to get my opinion on that one strip.

And... While in El Paso, President Reagan nominated Shirley Abbott, an El Paso optometrist, to be ambassador to Belize. Strange thing occurred. John Tower, the Republican senator from Texas, challenged the appointment. And by coincidence, the Scripps editors were invited to meet with the president in the White House. It was a pleasant one hour or so session and as it ended the president stood at the door and we walked by to say good-bye and shake hands. When it came to my turn, I said: "I am Harry Moskos, editor of the El Paso Herald-Post. I know Shirley Abbott. He is a fine man and will make an excellent ambassador to Belize." The president dropped his hand and a blank look crossed his face and he just stood there. It was sort of "what in the world are you talking about" look. He said nothing and did not shake my hand. To this day I remain puzzled by his reaction. Is the Belize ambassadorship so low on the priority list? But an appointment challenged by a fellow Republican! Anyway, as I recall the post was filled by the consul general in Belize and Shirley Abbott was later named as ambassador to Lesotho.

Harry Moskos' email is - hmoskos@msn.com

Dan Hamrick, AP and newspaper veteran, dies at 83



Upper left: St. Louis AP; lower left: Asking a question of then Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan at the Landon Lecture, Kansas State University; upper right: With grandson Christopher Hamrick; lower right: Attending National Press Club inauguration.

Mark Hamrick (Email) - It is with a heavy heart to let you know that my father, Daniel Hamrick, passed on Saturday after a long illness at age 83. He will be greatly missed. Nevertheless, it is a blessing that his great suffering from illness is over. He had been hospitalized since December in the Cleveland area.

I was fortunate to be able to visit him before the outbreak limited travel and access to those hospitalized.

He overcame great adversity before becoming a journalist, newspaper editor, publisher and owner and worked for 11 years for The Associated Press. His mother was an elementary school teacher in Valley Head, West Virginia. His father, a coal miner, died when Dan was just 11 years old.

He attended West Virginia University was employed as a reporter for the Clarksburg (WVa.) Exponent after college. He was hired shortly thereafter by

the AP, working in Charleston, WVa, the New York Broadcast desk, Baltimore, Topeka and St. Louis, the latter two serving as correspondent. After the AP, he took a job as editor of the Coffeyville Journal in Kansas. Later, he'd own a community newspaper he founded, the Village Vanguard and a trade publication, the Arabian Horse Express. He also served as a city commissioner in Coffeyville and was proud to have founded an annual celebration, the New Beginnings Festival.

In recent years, he was retired in Canton and Akron, Ohio and had most recently lived with his sister Sylvia, who also survives him. My late brother Craig, himself a writer, author and journalist, previously died from colon cancer in New York.

My father's passions included researching genealogy, cooking and following West Virginia University sports.

His life will be celebrated by the family at a future date.

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Because he was a strong leader, a respected journalist/editor and heavily interested in politics, I was immersed in that world as well. I spent a great deal of time visiting him working at the AP bureau in Topeka and at the Coffeyville Journal. I remember visiting the AP New York broadcast operation during a space flight and seeing the old Photofax machine printing images of the liftoff.

I attended one of his many lunches with the late Alf Landon. Politicians ranging from Kansas Governor Bob Bennett to Congressman Bill Roy visited our home in Coffeyville where discussions of issues of the day would ensue.

He helped me to focus on the importance of writing, solid reporting and ethics in journalism. When I was 15, he wanted me to get a job, including the suggestion that I work as a newspaper delivery boy for The Coffeyville Journal where he was then editor. I resisted and instead was able to get a job at radio station KGGF, which next door to the paper, also owned by the Seatons. He was not impressed by broadcast journalism at the time and gave me a bit of grief about it for a while. As it turned out, of course, I worked for 26 years with the AP, compared to his 11 years in the various operations.

One of the most important moments in helping me to decide to pursue my career was when I traveled with my father from Coffeyville to Topeka when he attended a news conference held by then President Ford. Sitting in the lobby of the Ramada Inn where it was held, I was so impressed by the traveling network correspondents, including both Tom Brokaw and John Cochran. I had the opportunity to tell them both about that in recent years via introductions made possible by my National Press Club presidency.

It is remarkable and a blessing how life comes full circle in so many ways.

The perils of a Zoom call from home and a 4 year old who wants to play catch with dad



Dad and Pablo with his ball.

Peter Prengaman (Email) –*AP News Director for Western U.S., Phoenix* - The other day I had an important meeting to lead with my team, so I spent a little time preparing. This wasn't the usual story meetings that we have several times a day.

Of course, I'm at home, like everybody at the AP, so it was going to be one more Zoom call.

When the meeting approached, both the 10-year-old, who was melting down about online school (as he does every day), and the 8-year-old had their own Zoom calls with their classes, so they needed to use the computers. My wife was attending to them.

I went outside to the backyard and fired up Zoom on my iPhone, holding my notes in the other hand. Then the 4-year-old, who literally follows me everywhere in the house, followed me out and took his little football. We play a version of catch in the backyard, so he surely figured this was what we would do.

I got on the call. The connection wasn't great, which makes sense because I'm outside and wifi isn't strong out there (and two other devices are being used). I'm holding the phone in front of my face so my team can see me. As I start talking, the 4-year-old, clearly frustrated, starts trying to push me.

He is nonverbal, but what he wanted was clear: to get me to put away the phone and walk to a part of the yard where we usually play catch. I try to ignore him and start the meeting.

All of a sudden, I get whacked on the side of the head by the football. The 4-year-old is clearly escalating things. It takes a lot to rattle me, so I figure I can just keep going.

I start taking several more incoming of the ball, dodging as I'm talking. At one point, I pick up the ball and chuck it across the yard, hoping that will give me at least a few minutes of peace to get out the rest of what I want to say. I continue.

Things are going OK until ... Bam! The ball comes from behind my back and knocks the phone out of my hand and into the grass. I pick it up. The connection is gone.

I quickly click on the link and get back in, but now the connection is so bad that nobody can hear me. I shut off the video, which helps some. I finish what I had to say. Thankfully, we have a great team, and everybody had a laugh.

There is working at home with three little kids in a nutshell, folks. I'm around all week for consultations, counseling, solidarity chats, etc.

Connecting mailbox

Reporters are not cheerleaders



**Larry
McDermott**
Life on
the farm

It's pretty clear that many people don't know what role a news reporter is supposed to play. For those who might care enough to want to know, here is your homeschooling lesson for the week.

Having for many years been a reporter and editor who managed reporters, I have some first-hand knowledge, which I am happy to share.

Let's deal first with what reporters are not. They are not cheerleaders, apologists, disciples or public relations operatives who are given a script to follow to make everyone look and sound perfect. They are

neither soldiers who salute the general nor appointees who speak only with permission.

They are gatherers of information. They ask questions—lots of questions. Sometimes they ask questions that make people uncomfortable. Having been a part of that process for many years, I was always impressed when a person who was being interviewed maintained decorum and showed mutual respect.

People in positions of power often lose sight of their true role. Sometimes they come to see themselves as royalty and reporters as their subjects. Throughout my years as a reporter, I can count on one hand the number of times I encountered this. Most of the countless people I interviewed were respectful even when they didn't like the questions.

Once, when our report-

ers were asking questions in their investigation of allegations that a Catholic priest had abused boys, I received a call from the local bishop's office asking to meet with me. During the meeting I told the bishop that our reporters were asking questions on behalf of the public and that as the editor I fully supported their efforts. That must have been an odd thing for him to hear, because he stared at me with puzzlement for the longest time.

"Oh I see," he said with a slight smirk. "You're a left-footed Irishman." With that, he thanked me for my time and the clergy flanking him stood in unison. Taking my queue, I stood and thanked him for the opportunity to meet.

It was clear that he thought, since I am Irish, that I am Catholic and therefore would be understanding of his church's reluctance to be forthcoming. But my refusal to be sympathetic to him or his priests convinced him I was a "left-footed Irishman"—a Protestant—with a tin ear.

It was a bit of gamesmanship, a power play by him to test me. Even though we were on opposite sides of the fence, however, we were polite and respectful.

As our country has grown apart, creating a vast and most-

ly unoccupied middle ground, news reporters have been vilified, disparaged and demonized by people who don't want them asking questions.

Most countries don't have the freedom of press that we have, so you won't find reporters asking tough questions in places like Russia, China, North Korea, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Iran, to name a few. In fact, in some of those places they execute and dismember reporters or people who question them.

But we're in America. People who hold elective office cannot be despots or dictators. They are chosen by the people to serve, and regardless of party affiliation, elected officials are answerable to the people for their actions and inactions.

Reporters also represent the people, and are supposed to ask the tough questions that the public cannot. Berating, vilifying and disparaging them is a sign of weakness and fear, not strength and courage.

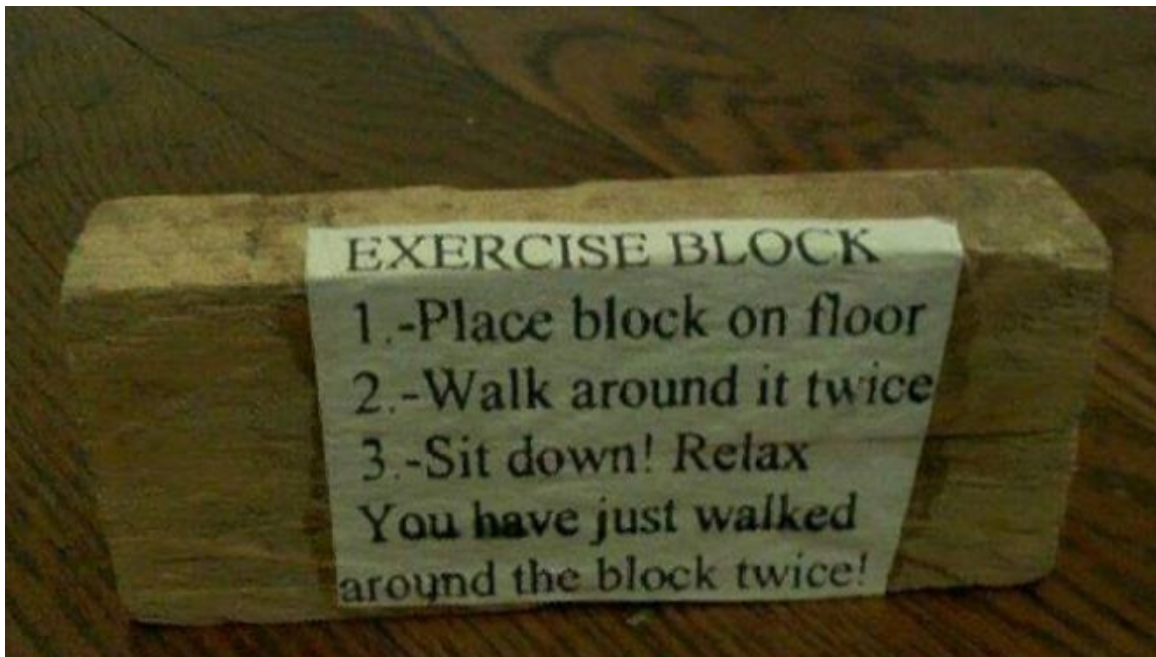
Larry McDermott, a retired journalist, owns a 40-acre organic farm in Rutherfordton, where he grows blueberries, keeps bees and raises horses, dairy goats, and chickens. Email: hardscrabblehollow@gmail.com or see farm happenings at www.facebook.com/hardscrabblehollowfarmllc



Larry McDermott ([Email](#)) – wrote this column that appeared last week in the Tryon Daily Bulletin in Tryon, NC and The Daily Courier in Forest City, NC.

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No further comments needed

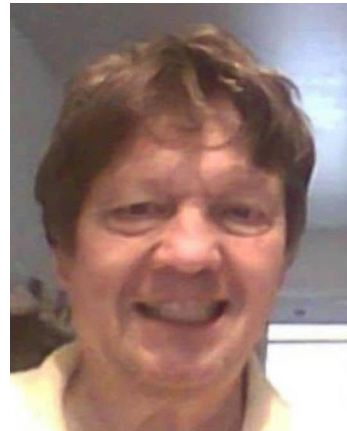


Doug Kienitz (Email) - No further comments needed. I miss the Sun City fitness center—which has been a lockdown with everything else at this age-restricted community. This mature group of folks seems well sensitized to the coronavirus issues.

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Longtime AP Denver freelancer Dale Bublitz dies

Arnie Stapleton (Email) – AP’s NFL writer in Denver - We lost a friend and journalism lost a bulldog of a reporter to cancer over the weekend. Dale Bublitz was a longtime freelancer for the Associated Press in Denver who knew everyone and was always tenacious in his pursuit of a quote or a story. He would always promise to get you just what you needed and he always came through. Rest in peace my friend. Vaya con dios.



Here’s a classic Dale Bublitz story: One time the media was watching the Denver Broncos practice and special teams guru Keith Burns began chewing out a player, cursing up a blue streak and really berating this guy’s bonehead play. Breaking the uncomfortable silence on the sideline, the witty and ever self-deprecating Dale says, “Sounds like my last performance evaluation.”

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Connecting forest shot – Georgia



Peggy Walsh ([Email](#)) – Outdoors in Georgia. Spring in the back yard. The tall yellow bush is a hybrid azalea that smells like honeysuckle.

Best of the Week

**Portraits of heroes: AP documents
courageous health professionals in
Italy**



Their eyes are tired. Their cheekbones rubbed raw from protective masks. They don't smile. The medical personnel on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic in Italy are almost unrecognizable behind their masks, scrubs, gloves and hairnets – the flimsy battle armor donned at the start of each shift as the only barrier to contagion. AP photographers fanned out on March 27, 2020 to photograph doctors and nurses on the front lines of the battle against COVID-19 during rare breaks from intensive care units in the Lombardy region cities of Bergamo and Brescia, and in Rome. AP PHOTOS / DOMENICO STINELLIS, ANTONIO CALANNI, LUCA BRUNO

With a powerful and evocative photo gallery, AP journalists in Italy captured the heroism of 16 Italian medical personnel on the front lines of the battle against the coronavirus pandemic. The stark, understated images and accompanying story riveted audiences around the globe.

Rome-based photo editor Alberto Pellaschiar proposed the idea: a gallery of portraits of health care workers in the country then at the epicenter of the fight. It wasn't going to be easy. Besides questions of access and safety, was it justifiable to take doctors and nurses away from their patients? The team in Italy worked with medical centers in Bergamo, Brescia and Rome to come up with a solution that would not causes disruption. And the hospitals agreed that

portraying the people in the frontline struggle could help persuade people around the world to take the crisis seriously.

Reassured by AP's reputation for professionalism, the hospitals permitted Milan photographers Antonio Calanni and Luca Bruno and Rome-based chief photo editor Domenico Stinellis to take a moment to photograph the doctors and nurses during their breaks or as they finished their shifts at the different facilities.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

Surviving the coronavirus upheaval may depend on your paycheck – a tale of 2 families



At left, Rebecca Biernat looks over the shoulder of her son her son, Seamus Keenan, 6, as he takes a class online at their home in San Francisco, March 19, 2020. At right, Sonia Bautista watches as husband William Gonzalez hugs their son Ricardo Bautista, 14, while posing for photos in their apartment in South San Francisco, Calif., March 24, 2020. California's Bay Area, a study in contrasts, had been shut down for more than a week, the first region of America to order its residents to stay home, work remotely and homeschool their children in a desperate bid to slow the spread of the coronavirus pandemic. AP PHOTO / JEFF CHIU

California's Bay Area is full of extremes: poverty and wealth; homelessness and opulence; high-level industry and the service workers who support it. The stories of two families illustrate how those extremes matter when it comes to weathering the coronavirus.

Jocelyn Gecker and Olga Rodriguez set out to show how inequality was playing out among the millions dealing with a shutdown meant to slow the spread of coronavirus. It took several tries to find families who best told the story, and who would agree to up-close, personal access to their lives. Gecker talked to three families and while none of them fit the bill, one woman talked about her ex-husband who was remarried with little kids, putting Gecker in touch with Rebecca Biernat, a San Francisco attorney. Meanwhile, Rodriguez found Sonia Bautista, a hotel worker, through the union she belonged to, and

interviewed the family in Spanish, the language they were most comfortable speaking.

Read more [here](#).

Nats star Zimmerman's AP diary: Reading 'Chocolate Factory'



FILE - In this June 16, 2019, file photo, Washington Nationals' Ryan Zimmerman, center, sits on the field with his daughters Mackenzie, left, and Hayden, right, before a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Washington. With baseball on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, Zimmerman occasionally will offer his thoughts via diary entries published by the AP, while waiting for the 2020 season to begin. (AP Photo/Nick Wass, File)

By RYAN ZIMMERMAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ryan Zimmerman is a two-time All-Star infielder who has played 15 years in the majors, all with the Washington Nationals. He holds most of the team's career hitting records, and his two homers and seven RBIs last postseason helped the Nationals win their first World Series championship. With baseball on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, Zimmerman occasionally will offer his thoughts -- as told to AP Sports Writer Howard Fendrich -- while waiting for the 2020 season to begin.

Been trying to read some books.

Been trying to not watch as much TV.

And trying to kind of go to sleep at a decent hour. We never get to do that.

In 20-plus years, I haven't had this time of the year to myself -- and now I'm locked up and I can't go do anything because of what's going on with the virus.

Everyone says this is what it's like when you retire from the game: You have all this time, you have the spring and summer, and you get to do everything. Now I have all the time in the world and can't do anything. So it's kind of weird.

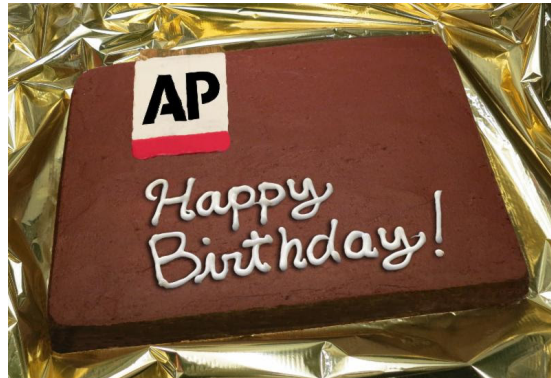
Me and my wife were talking about this the other day: People have sort of settled into what we're calling "The Quarantine Routine."

The first week, nobody really knew how long it was going to last. It was like, "OK, we can do this. It's going to be a little while, but we can get through it." And then, all of a sudden, it was like, "Uh, it's been two weeks -- and it's going to be a lot longer."

Some reality sets in.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Kia Breaux – kbreaux@ap.org

Mike Tharp – bucktharp33@aol.com

Stories of interest

As Trump reaches for hope and journalists shoot him down, reporters end up looking bad (USA Today)

By Ari Fleischer, Opinion contributor

If President Trump is a wartime president, does that make Washington reporters wartime correspondents?

Even before coronavirus, I often wondered if today's press corps had covered the allied landing at D-Day in June 1944, if their stories would have led with the disastrous American landing on Omaha Beach, the paratroopers who dropped miles away from their targets and the submersible tanks that sunk to the bottom of the English Channel before ever touching land.

Indeed, if each of these genuine military setbacks had been the lead story, the American people might have lost the will to fight the rest of the war.

Which brings me to today's press corps.

Since Vietnam and Watergate, the Washington press corps has earned its chops by taking on those in power, relentlessly questioning what they are told, particularly when they're told it by a Republican President, and doing their best to expose mistakes, misstatements and problems. When something goes wrong, the press shines a light on it.

"It's not news when an airplane lands" goes the old journalistic saw. "It's only news when a plane crashes."

Read more [here](#). Shared by John Brewer.

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Journalists threatened and detained as countries on multiple continents restrict coronavirus coverage (Washington Post)

By Louisa Loveluck, Robyn Dixon and Adam Taylor

LONDON — When a flu-like virus tore through the world, killing tens of millions and infecting far more, the papers in Europe told readers of "Spanish flu." King Alfonso XIII of Spain was one of many stricken, they reported in 1918. What they didn't say was that their own populations were being decimated, too.

It was the largest pandemic in modern history, but due to wartime censorship in many European countries, few citizens would know it at first. Only Spain, a nation neutral in the fight, allowed its press to work largely uncensored, and so it was that stories of the contagion spread too.

A century later, coronavirus is again testing the resilience of independent media around the world as governments exploit concerns over coverage of the epidemic to clamp down on press freedoms.

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

The Final Word

A Palm Sunday like no other





Paul Stevens ([Email](#)) – This Palm Sunday was unlike no other in the Stevens household due to the coronavirus outbreak. Church services online in the morning and then a neighbor gathering in the afternoon – following the rules, no couples closer than six feet and an assembly of 10 or under (Ollie counted as No. 9). Adapting to our new normal. Staying positive.

Today in History – April 6, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, April 6, the 97th day of 2020. There are 269 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic games formally opened in Athens, Greece.

On this date:

In 1862, the Civil War Battle of Shiloh began in Tennessee as Confederate forces launched a surprise attack against Union troops, who beat back the Confederates the next day.

In 1864, Louisiana opened a convention in New Orleans to draft a new state constitution, one that called for the abolition of slavery.

In 1909, American explorers Robert E. Peary and Matthew A. Henson and four Inuits became the first men to reach the North Pole.

In 1917, the United States entered World War I as the House joined the Senate in approving a declaration of war against Germany that was then signed by President Woodrow Wilson.

In 1945, during World War II, the Japanese warship Yamato and nine other vessels sailed on a suicide mission to attack the U.S. fleet off Okinawa; the fleet was intercepted the next day.

In 1954, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., responding to CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow's broadside against him on "See It Now," said in remarks filmed for the program that Murrow had, in the past, "engaged in propaganda for Communist causes."

In 1968, 41 people were killed by two consecutive natural gas explosions at a sporting goods store in downtown Richmond, Indiana.

In 1971, Russian-born composer Igor Stravinsky, 88, died in New York City.

In 1974, Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest held in Brighton, England, with a performance of the song "Waterloo."

In 1985, William J. Schroeder (SHRAY'-dur) became the first artificial heart recipient to be discharged from the hospital as he moved into an apartment in Louisville, Kentucky.

In 1994, Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun announced his retirement after 24 years.

In 1998, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 9,000 points for the first time, ending the day at 9,033.23. Country singer Tammy Wynette died at her Nashville home at age 55.

Ten years ago: The White House announced a fundamental shift in U.S. nuclear strategy that called the spread of atomic weapons to rogue states or terrorists a worse threat than the nuclear Armageddon feared during the Cold War. Former Soviet diplomat Anatoly Dobrynin, 90, died in Moscow. Actor Corin Redgrave, 70, died in London. Wilma Mankiller, the first female chief of the Cherokee Nation, died in Oklahoma at age 64.

Five years ago: The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at the University of Virginia announced it would “pursue all available legal action” against Rolling Stone, saying a Columbia Journalism School review showed the magazine acted recklessly and defamed its members by publishing a discredited article that accused them of gang rape. Kenyan warplanes bombed militant camps in Somalia after a vow by President Uhuru Kenyatta to respond “in the fiercest way possible” to the massacre of Kenyan college students by al-Shabab militants. Kentucky coach John Calipari and Spencer Haywood were among 11 new inductees named to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Duke scored a 68-63 victory over Wisconsin for the program’s fifth NCAA national title. Character actor James Best, 88, best known for his role as Sheriff Rosco P. Coltrane on “The Dukes of Hazzard” comedy show, died in Hickory, North Carolina.

One year ago: Former South Carolina Democratic Sen. Ernest “Fritz” Hollings, who had also helped guide the state through desegregation as governor, died at the age of 97; he was the eighth-longest-serving senator in U.S. history. Virginia beat Auburn, and Texas Tech defeated Michigan State, to advance to the final game of the NCAA tournament.

Today’s Birthdays: Nobel Prize-winning scientist James D. Watson is 92. Actor Billy Dee Williams is 83. Actor Roy Thinnes is 82. Movie director Barry Levinson is 78. Actor John Ratzenberger is 73. Actress Patrika Darbo is 72. Baseball Hall of Famer Bert Blyleven is 69. Actress Marilu Henner is 68. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Janet Lynn is 67. Actor Michael Rooker is 65. Former U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., is 64. Rock musician Warren Haynes is 60. Rock singer-musician Frank Black is 55. Actress Ari Meyers is 51. Actor Paul Rudd is 51. Actor-producer Jason Hervey is 48. Rock musician Markku Lappalainen (mar-KOO’ lap-uh-LAN’-en) is 47. Actor Zach Braff is 45. Actor Joel Garland is 45. Actress Candace Cameron Bure (buhr-RAY’) is 44. Actor Teddy Sears is 43. Jazz and rhythm-and-blues musician Robert Glasper is 42. Actress Eliza Coupe is 39. Folk singer-musician Kenneth Pattengale (Milk Carton Kids) is 38. Actor Bret Harrison is 38. Actor Charlie McDermott is 30.

Thought for Today: “Never think that you’re not good enough yourself. A man should never think that. My belief is that in life people will take you at your own reckoning.” – Isaac Asimov (1920-1992).

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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