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Connecting

April 17, 2020

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FILE - In this April 19, 1995, file photo, the north side of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City is missing after a vehicle bombing which killed 168 people. (AP Photo, File)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 17th day of April 2020,

This Sunday marks the 25th anniversary of the tragedy in Oklahoma City when a truck bomb exploded next to Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and killed 168 people.

Until 9/11, Oklahoma City was the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the United States. It remains the deadliest case of domestic terrorism in the country's history.

Today's Connecting brings you an account of that tragic day from two of our colleagues who covered the story – **Lindel Hutson**, then Oklahoma City chief of bureau, and **Dan Sewell**, then the AP's Southeast regional writer and now Cincinnati correspondent.

Every year since the bombing, a memorial service has been held on April 19. But because of the COVID-19 outbreak, the memorial in downtown Oklahoma City is closed because of local stay-at-home orders. The service on Sunday has been taped. It can be viewed via the [memorial website](#).

AP CONNECTION TO HOLLYWOOD : With the death Wednesday of actor **Brian Dennehy**, some of your Connecting colleagues recall meeting him through his father, legendary General Desk supervising editor **Ed Dennehy**. Ed died in 1984 at the age of 72. He retired from the AP in 1977, ending a career that began during World War II. They share their memories of Brian and Ed in today's issue. If you have your own memories, please send them along.



AP GROUND GAME: In today's "Ground Game" podcast, host Ralph Russo and race and ethnicity writer Aaron Morrison talk about how the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected black Americans.

Listen [here](#).

HOW TO COPE: We lead today's issue with first responses to our call for your advice to colleagues on how to cope with all the restrictions in place because of COVID-19. A poem, a prayer, a favorite saying... Why not share your own?

Be safe, be healthy, stay optimistic, and have a good weekend.

Paul

Finding comfort in trying times

Linda Deutsch ([Email](#)) - This is the poem I shared when asked for something I have found comforting in times of stress. I am a great fan of Edna

St. Vincent Millay and this poem, "God's World," has always been a favorite, reminding of the beauty in life.

God's World

BY EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY

O world, I cannot hold thee close enough!
Thy winds, thy wide grey skies!
Thy mists, that roll and rise!
Thy woods, this autumn day, that ache and sag
And all but cry with colour! That gaunt crag
To crush! To lift the lean of that black bluff!
World, World, I cannot get thee close enough!

Long have I known a glory in it all,
But never knew I this;
Here such a passion is
As stretcheth me apart,—Lord, I do fear
Thou'st made the world too beautiful this year;
My soul is all but out of me,—let fall
No burning leaf; prithee, let no bird call.

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Angie Lamoli ([Email](#)) - Dr. Arthur Samuels, a psychiatrist who happened to be a practicing Buddhist, taught me decades ago this mantra which I use daily ever since to get my "get-up-and-go":

"Life is neither bad nor good. Life is simply life. The sole determinant of your happiness is your perspective."

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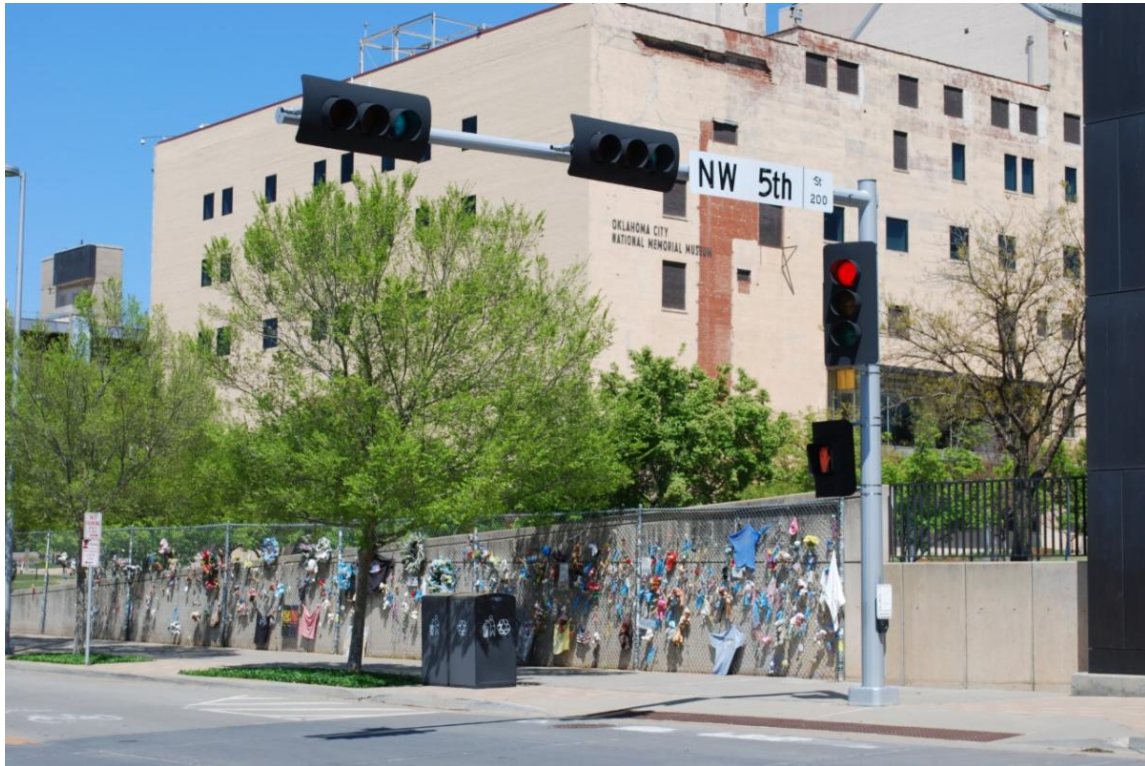
Cliff Schiappa ([Email](#)) - Here's a poem I just received from my friend and award-winning short film producer Clayton Dean Smith that I found very inspiring. It's always been a touchstone for him during difficult times, and I was taken by it as well. I hope our Connecting colleagues will find it helpful at this time.

"The Peace of Wild Things" **by Wendell Berry**

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.

And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Oklahoma City bombing: Suddenly America seemed vulnerable



Photo/Lindel Hutson

Lindel Hutson ([Email](#)) - It's been 25 years since a truck bomb exploded in downtown Oklahoma City, stunning the city and the nation.

The bomb, engineered by Timothy McVeigh and sidekick Terry Nichols, ripped the face off the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building and killed 168 people. At the time, it put the nation on a defensive footing somewhat akin to today's pandemic.

This explosion in the middle of the country in a city known mostly for petroleum companies, government facilities and cowboys and Indians awakened the country. Suddenly America seemed vulnerable.

Until the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Oklahoma City was the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the United States. It remains the deadliest case of domestic terrorism in the country's history.

Under the guidance of Executive Editor Bill Ahearn and Managing Editor Darrell Christian, the AP sent a huge contingent to help with the coverage. Nearly every regional and national writer in the system was sent to Oklahoma

City. Bureaus in neighboring states adjusted schedules and sent staffers to join the Oklahoma staff of 15 and News Editor Linda Franklin.

It was a major coverage effort because it was a huge story with international reach. There were stories of the victims, stories of the investigation. The story of innocence lost in middle America.



The iconic picture of firefighter Chris Fields holding tiny Baylee Almon won the 1996 Pulitzer Prize for the AP. The picture was taken by Charles Porter IV, a bank credit officer who handed me his package of prints processed at a Walmart.

The coverage was intensely competitive. Every major media outlet in the country sent staff. An area of parking lots north of the building became a media city of TV trucks and satellite uplinks. Much of that area is now occupied by the new federal building which opened in 2004.

The AP's coverage was solid from the start and continued through the trial of Nichols years later in McAlester, Oklahoma. Said Ahearn, "In Oklahoma City, the AP soared."

Those staffers who came here a quarter century ago would not recognize downtown Oklahoma City today. Things have changed dramatically as life goes on in the state's capital.

The city has added many new petroleum companies, most of them launched because of the successful but controversial fracking method used in the region to extract petroleum.

South of the bomb site, Devon Energy opened a 50-story office tower in 2012. Nearby is the new BOK banking tower and the Chesapeake Energy Arena, home to the Oklahoma City Thunder of the NBA.

The Thunder has helped attract hotels, restaurants and other entertainment venues across downtown. This also drives the Bricktown entertainment district, home to night spots, restaurants and similar facilities. There's a new baseball stadium, which is home to the Oklahoma City Dodgers, the top farm team of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

A trolley system opened a little more than a year ago connects everything downtown.

Topping things off is a new dome on the state Capitol.

The Murrah building was demolished soon after the bombing and that land was transformed into an impressive memorial featuring a reflecting pool and an area of 168 chairs representing each victim.



Photo/Lindel Hutson

To the north is the museum facility housed in what was The Journal Record newspaper building. Part of this display is the office of former Managing Editor David Page which was left intact to show the destructiveness of the bomb. It is a mass of bricks and other debris. It looks just as it did when the bomb detonated at 9:02 a.m.

Page was seriously injured in the blast as were many others in the newspaper office. I had visited with Page numerous times in that office on membership trips and it's always eerie to go back.

In the building's basement is a repository housing many items connected to the bombing. These include parts of the Ryder truck that McVeigh used to bring the bomb to the city from Kansas.

Every year since the bombing, a memorial service is held on April 19. But not on this 25th anniversary. The service is another victim of COVID-19 and the memorial is closed because of local stay-at-home orders.

The service on Sunday has been taped. It can be viewed via the [memorial website](#) .

The memorial's director is Kari Watkins, who grew up in a newspaper family and is given credit as a driving force behind the success of the memorial, which commemorates the event and the lives lost and also serves as an educational tool.

In the 25 years since the bombing, many people have been born who never knew that it happened and never realized the impact it had.

The memorial this year has a theme, "Looking back, thinking forward."

"It is up to us to make sure we keep dropping the story in people's laps in different ways, and it's up to the community to embrace the story and make sure this place is never forgotten and the story is remembered," said Watkins, whose family owns the Cleveland American weekly paper in Cleveland, Oklahoma.

"I'm very encouraged by the younger generation," Watkins told The Oklahoman. "They want to learn the story."

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The AP's Judy Gibbs produced a look-back story for the wire Friday - [**AP Was There: Oklahoma City Bombing story**](#)

AP staff rushed to Oklahoma from around the country after bombing 25 years ago



FILE-- In this April 19, 1995, file photo, rescue workers stand in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building following an explosion in downtown Oklahoma City. (AP Photo/David Longstreath, File)

Dan Sewell ([Email](#)) – The ground shook and windows of nearby buildings shattered from the roar of the massive explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City at 9:02 a.m. Central time. The death toll from the April 19, 1995, truck bomb would eventually rise to 168, 19 of them children, with several hundred more people injured.

Oklahoma City bureau photographer David Longstreath had been one of the first photographers in the country to be outfitted with the new AP digital camera. He was among the first on the scene.

“As I dashed madly across the street towards the Murrah building, I saw severely injured people everywhere,” he says. “One man looked like a human porcupine with numerous chunks of glass wedged in his bloody face and head.

“Chaos can’t even begin to describe the destruction. The usually quiet business neighborhood had morphed into something you might encounter in

Beirut or Baghdad.”

“I shot with it (the new camera) and then transmitted over 20 digital images from the bomb site to member publications around the world.”

Longstreath returned to the AP office as local stringers and AP photographers arrived in the first wave of help.

The AP summoned a small army of reporters and photographers from around the country. By nightfall, the Oklahoma City office led by COB Lindel Hutson and News Editor Linda Franklin had about quadrupled in staff.

“After 43 years in daily news, 36-plus of them with the AP, lots of stories that I had a part in stick in my mind, from tornadoes and floods and several hurricanes ... to the heartbreak of Sandy Hook and the overwhelmingness of 9/11 — but the Oklahoma City bombing stands apart for several reasons,” recalls Chris Sullivan, then an Atlanta-based national writer.

“It was basic news judgment,” then-Managing Editor Darrell Christian recounts. “Federal building bombed, horrific death toll including children. That alone made it an all-hands-on-deck story.”



(AP Photo/David Longstreath, File)

Christian says the bombing came during an increasingly violent national climate. The first World Trade Center bombing was a fresh memory, the Oklahoma City bombing happened on the anniversary of the Waco, Texas,

conflagration set off in 1993 when federal agents stormed the Branch Davidian sect compound to end a stand-off.

The OKC office was reconfigured, tables were set up to become desks and technicians added phone lines. Extra cell phones were acquired. Staffers made hurried introductions and started working.

Christian had his deputy, Mike Silverman, on the scene.

“Oklahoma City in the hours and days after the bombing epitomized how the AP works as a team to deliver all the intricacies of an ever-evolving story,” Franklin writes. “There was no ‘us vs. them’ in terms of local staff and those brought in to help make sure we reported it all. It was just ‘us, the AP.’”

“Early on, Mike Silverman told me to think of my job as like that of a traffic cop and as the size of the staff grew, that made so much sense,” she adds. “The bylines you only knew from the AAA wire became the people who needed to know how to get downtown or to the children’s hospital or where they could set up to write...”

Among the AP force: legendary Special Correspondent George Esper, famed for his Vietnam War coverage. National Writer Mark Fritz, who one day earlier had been celebrating at AP headquarters after winning the Pulitzer Prize for international reporting for his coverage of the Rwanda ethnic slaughters. National Writer Sharon Cohen, already one of the AP’s most experienced national reporters and still reporting and writing some of the wire’s best stories from the Chicago office today.

Heading to Oklahoma, Cohen knew this was going to be her biggest story yet.

“Waiting for a plane at O’Hare, I was watching a CNN monitor and I heard the coroner say he had asked for more than 100 body bags, and this being pre-9/11, that stunned me. Turned out that was way too low,” Cohen remembers.

Others coming from neighboring bureaus would become better known in the future: Doug Ferguson, the Tulsa correspondent before he was the acclaimed AP Golf Writer. Pauline Arrillaga, future national writer and then national enterprise editor. And Sally Buzbee, who kept rising all the way to executive editor of The AP.

Silverman, the ground commander, took control in his genial but firm way, quick and nimble in his decisions.

Christian remembers that Silverman and staff helped keep The AP from falling into assumptions that Islamic terrorists were to blame. Other news organizations reported those suspicions, drawing accusations later of sensationalism and racism.

“Therein lay an example of where the right story is no story at all,” Christian recalls. “An explosive story circulating among other news organizations told of

two men of Middle Eastern appearance who had been stopped as they sped out of Oklahoma City. Did this mean the bombing was the work of Mideast terrorists? It wasn't true."

Sullivan helped The AP look in the right direction, based on a story he was working on before the bombing about the so-called constitutionalist or citizens militia movement.

"So, even before the release of the police artist's sketch of the John Doe suspects (including one with an all-American crewcut and a scowl), I was reinterviewing sources about whether this blast might be homegrown. AP reported this domestic terror prospect, which turned out to be right."

Timothy McVeigh, a former soldier who had fallen deeply into the "Patriot" movement, was stopped for a traffic violation and soon was named the chief suspect.

Sullivan points to "snap-finger deployment of troops to wherever they were needed." National writer Bob Dvorchak was sent to Arizona to report about McVeigh's friends and connections there.

"Bob called in from his rental car, speeding from the Las Vegas airport, to report, inimitably, that he'd just passed the Liberace Museum and was on his way," Sullivan recalls.

Fritz was sent to his native Michigan after it was learned the bomber's accomplice was from there. Cohen remembers a detail about Terry Nichols that has stayed with her:

"One of the first days after the bombing, Fran Richardson was sitting next to me going through the loads of copy from the bureaus and she pointed out something that seemed amazingly cruel — a report that Terry Nichols had cable installed in his house the day of the bombing so he could watch the news."

Within the Big Story, there were smaller stories that have stayed with the writers:

Sullivan's: "On the morning after the blast, I went to a hospital and met up with photographer Pat Sullivan (no relation); we talked our way to the bedside of a Murrah building maintenance worker who the doctors said had lost two-thirds of his blood when his carotid artery was gashed by shrapnel.

"He couldn't speak but he'd asked for paper and pen and had been writing notes, dozens of them — thanking rescue workers and doctors and nurses, remembering the unknown co-worker who'd pulled him from the debris (and who was now missing), sharing his love for his parents and finally grieving for the lost children from the day care center, which he'd just left when the explosion happened."

Cohen's: "On the Sunday after the bombing, Mike Silverman gave me a short story reporting a unique tragedy — a woman's death from the bombing — she was a nurse who was not at the bombing but ran down there to help and a piece of building fell on her head, and she lapsed into a coma. Her name was Rebecca Anderson and I spent hours trying to find her husband. Linda Franklin's husband, the news editor at The Oklahoman, was a tremendous help because he knew the funeral home where Anderson was held temporarily. They put me in touch with Anderson's husband and I drove over and it turned out they had been married a short time. He described their love story and her last days."

It was Longstreath who processed and sent to the world the iconic photo of Oklahoma City firefighter Chris Fields cradling infant Baylee Almon.

His thoughts today: "It's now been 25 years since that photo was taken just after Timothy McVeigh touched off his massive truck bomb. Sometimes it seems like that long ago, if not longer. Other times it seems like yesterday, a burden carried forever."

Mine? I was doing a lot of daily news, and it's more like a montage:

__ I was in a pool of reporters in a courtroom at Tinker Air Force Base where McVeigh would have his first appearance. I found myself seated just feet away from the angular young man who seemed a little stunned. I pulled out my notebook, but an airman spotted me and moved between us. In the hearing, the FBI revealed that part of McVeigh's motivation was revenge on the federal government for the Waco deaths.

__ There was a "media opportunity" spot designated; the ruins of the Murrah building were in the background. Among some I covered: then-Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, and an emerging country music star who I would later see in concert many times, Oklahoma native Toby Keith.

__ Developing a profile story on Oklahoma's Republican governor, Frank Keating, I did a "talk-while-we-walk" interview through the streets of an eerily deserted downtown at night. The next day, I interviewed his wife, Cathy. I noticed her starting to smile. Remember, I packed in a hurry to go to Oklahoma City and unfortunately, I was behind on my laundry so I just grabbed whatever clean socks and underwear I had. Cathy Keating: "Are you wearing Santa Claus socks?" It was true.

__ I "celebrated" my 40th birthday in the bureau. They had a cake for me, folks gathered to sing, I blew out the candles, everyone cut out slices and went right back to work.

And here's Chris' memory: "It was several days into the coverage and we'd all been working nonstop I remember this particular night all of us were wrapping up our stories. Somehow, it got around that on that April day or in the next day or so, Sharon Cohen, Dan Sewell and I would be having birthdays. My recollection is that it was around 7:30 when Linda Franklin called across

the newsroom to ask what place might be open for something to eat and to celebrate.

“The Cock o’ the Walk!” someone shouted out, then gave us directions. We played a little pool, had a beer and a burger — and cake that somehow materialized. A little lightness in a heavy place, and a never-to-be-forgotten birthday. “

P.S. - Many of us thought this would be the biggest story of our careers. McVeigh was executed in 2001, exactly three months before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

(Editor's Note: Sewell, then the AP's Southeast regional writer, is now the Cincinnati correspondent.)

Son of legendary AP General Desk editor Ed Dennehy
Brian Dennehy, Tony-winning stage,
screen actor, dies at 81



FILE - This Feb. 26, 2006 file photo shows actor Brian Dennehy with his best actor Olivier Award for his role in "Death of a Salesman," at the 2006 British Theater Lawrence Olivier Awards in London. (AP Photo/Max Nash, File)

By MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Dennehy, the burly actor who started in films as a macho heavy and later in his career won plaudits for his stage work in plays by William Shakespeare, Anton Chekhov, Eugene O'Neill and Arthur Miller, has died. He was 81.

Dennehy died Wednesday night of natural causes in New Haven, Connecticut, according to Kate Cafaro of ICM Partners, the actor's representatives.

Known for his broad frame, booming voice and ability to play good guys and bad guys with equal aplomb, Dennehy won two Tony Awards, a Golden Globe, a Laurence Olivier Award and was nominated for six Emmys. He was inducted into the American Theater Hall of Fame in 2010.

Tributes came from Hollywood and Broadway, including from Lin-Manuel Miranda, who said he saw Dennehy twice onstage and called the actor "a colossus." Actor Michael McKean said Dennehy was "brilliant and versatile, a powerhouse actor and a very nice man as well." Dana Delany, who appeared in a movie with Dennehy, said: "They don't make his kind anymore."

Among his 40-odd films, he played a sheriff who jailed Rambo in "First Blood," a serial killer in "To Catch a Killer," and a corrupt sheriff gunned down by Kevin Kline in "Silverado." He also had some benign roles: the bartender who consoles Dudley Moore in "10" and the levelheaded leader of aliens in "Cocoon" and its sequel.

"The world has lost a great artist," Sylvester Stallone wrote in tribute on Twitter, saying Dennehy helped him build the character of Rambo.

Eventually Dennehy wearied of the studio life. "Movies used to be fun," he observed in an interview. "They took care of you, first-class. Those days are gone."

Read more [here](#) .

Your memories of Ed and Brian Dennehy



In Boston, in 1951, staffer Jim King (far left) points out his hometown sights to the New York Dennehy's - from left, Michael, Brian, Papa Ed Dennehy of the General Desk. Photo courtesy of AP Corporate Archives

Jerry Cipriano ([Email](#)) - I was sorry to hear that actor Brian Dennehy died on Wednesday (4/15) at the age of 81. As many Connecting readers may know, the two-time Tony Award winner was the son of Associated Press legend Ed Dennehy, the longtime New York General Desk Supervisor. Ed was a friend and mentor of mine dating back to my days as a copy boy and then a broadcast newswriter at 50 Rock. I had the pleasure of meeting Brian when Ed and his wife, Hannah, invited me to have dinner with their family in Mineola on Long Island.

Brian was a huge man -- six-foot-three -- and, I would say, close to 250 pounds. I will never forget the image and sound of this former college football offensive lineman and former Marine bounding down the stairs to the dining room as the house shook. His big strong hand soon swallowed mine as he said hello. It was the mid-1970s and Brian was still a struggling, little-known actor, but Ed was so proud of him. I remember how Ed was beaming that day in March of 1977 when Brian was about to appear in one of his first high-profile television roles, playing an MP on M*A*S*H. Ed reminded everyone in the office to watch that night. And we did.



Susan Clark ([Email](#)) - In 1999, I had met Brian's wife while having my nails done, and I told her I worked for The Associated Press, as had Brian's father Ed who had been a New York General Desk news editor in the years before I came to the AP. I asked her if she would ask him to call me and that I wanted him to come and talk to the staff. He did on March, 3, 1999. My boss at the time was Tory Smith and she thanked me for snagging Brian for the talk.

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Norm Goldstein ([Email](#)) - Ed Dennehy (EJD) was most proud of his son Brian and would often show pictures of his then-young Brian to us on the General Desk. Some photos were of Brian in school plays (but Ed always wanted him to be a priest).

I went backstage to meet Brian when he was on Broadway many years later, introducing myself as one of "Ed's boys." Brian was most gracious and friendly, noting how he "grew up with the AP."

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Ken Hartnett - retired editor of The Standard-Times of New Bedford, Mass., was an AP reporter who worked with Ed Dennehy on many a night in the 1960s and early 1970s. He wrote [this article](#) for SouthCoastToday in 2016 and here is an excerpt:

"His son is the actor, Brian Dennehy. I had a chance to chat with him one night years ago backstage at a Providence theater where he was appearing in a play. Brian told me his father had died and that he worked years and years without asking for a raise. He said when he scored his first triumph in a movie role and heard what he would be paid, he didn't tell his father the size of his contract because he knew it was more than Ed Dennehy was paid over his whole working life at the AP."



Ed Dennehy at desk in 1973 (Photo/AP Corporate Archives)

Joyce Rosenberg ([Email](#)) - I feel the loss of Brian Dennehy keenly. He was one of my favorite actors, so versatile, could do everything from subtle to brutal. And then there's his AP connection, which I inherited from others and which I treasure just as much.

I remember when Sam Boyle, my bureau chief, told me about a man named Ed Dennehy who had been a longtime General Desk supervisor. I had missed working with Ed by just a few months. Sam told me a number of stories about Ed, and through Sam, Ed became my mentor. I learned about coupling competence and compassion, high standards and a sense of humor. At some point -- I don't know when -- I learned that Brian was Ed's son. And after that Brian had even more of a glow in my eyes.

When Marty Sutphin and I started dating, he also talked about Ed, who had been such a great mentor for Marty as well. Marty also told me how the General Desk continually heard about Brian's successes from Ed. There was great interest and even a collective sense of pride on the desk in Brian's achievements.

Marty and I began going to Brian's performances in the 1990s with Sharon and Jim Willse. One was his magnificent portrayal of Willie Loman in "Death of a Salesman." I think Marty and Jim got to see a bit of Ed as they watched Brian, and maybe on some level they felt they were stand-ins for Brian's father.

I think the AP was important to Brian, and he knew how important his father was to AP staffers. So during one of his Broadway runs, Brian came to the AP and met with a group of then-current and former New York staffers. According to Marty, he began by saying, "so, you want to talk about my old man?" I think a lot of gifts were exchanged during the hour or so they all spent together. AP staffers got back a bit of Ed -- and Brian got to hear how much his father loved him and was proud of him.

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Marty Thompson ([Email](#)) - The initials "EJD" on a message from the General Desk signaled to bureau editors the importance of a question or story request as from the person in charge of the AMs national report, Ed Dennehy.

As a young editor on the desk in San Francisco, those initials or EJD's voice on the phone meant "take care of this first."

One of the obituaries for his son described Brian Dennehy as "burly and gregarious," which he must have inherited from his father.

Years later in New York, then Executive Editor Bill Ahearn arranged for Brian Dennehy to come to 50 Rock for an informal session around the table in the Seventh Floor board room with General Desk editors, many of whom had worked with Ed.

Brian Dennehy made it clear that AP meant family to him. The warmth of those feelings remains with me, and probably others who were in the room.

Connecting mailbox

Nick Jesdanun honored on MSNBC



Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - Nicole Wallace, host of 4 pm EDT show “Deadline White House” on MSNBC, honored Nick Jesdanun and his AP career at the end of her show that focuses on victims of the Coronavirus. Nick was the first AP staffer to die from COVID-19.

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AP earns World Press Photo honors



An Ethiopian relative of a crash victim throws dirt in her own face as she mourns at the scene where an Ethiopian Airlines Boeing 737 Max 8 crashed shortly after takeoff near Bishoftu, Ethiopia, March 14, 2019. (AP Photo/Mulugeta Ayene)

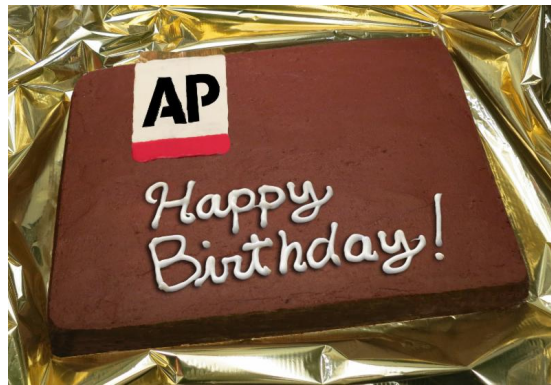
By Lauren Easton

Photos of a deadly Ethiopian Airlines plane crash, California wildfires, Brazilian sports fans and Hurricane Dorian's destruction earned The Associated Press top honors in the 2020 World Press Photo Contest.

Photographer Mulugeta Ayene's powerful photos of the aftermath of the March 2019 plane crash near Addis Ababa that killed all 157 people on board earned first prize in the spot news stories category. Ayene was also nominated for World Press Photo of the Year and Photo Story of the Year for his coverage of the crash.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Joyce Rosenberg - psyjourn313@gmail.com

On Saturday to...

Marc Wilson – marcus@townnews.com

On Sunday to...

John Dorfman - jdorfman@dorfmanvalue.com

Stories of interest

Faces That Can't Be Forgotten (New York Times)



Those We've Lost include (clockwise from top left): Terrence McNally, Hailey Herrera, Alan Finder, Dave Edwards, Lorena Borjas, Joseph Migliucci, Jenny Polanco, Dez-Ann Romain. Credit...The New York Times

By Daniel J. Wakin

Times Insider explains who we are and what we do, and delivers behind-the-scenes insights into how our journalism comes together.

Colleges were sending students packing. Wall Street was on its way to its worst decline since Black Monday in 1987. Broadway went dark, northern Italian hospitals fell into critical condition, and the World Health Organization declared the spread of the coronavirus a pandemic.

The prospect of death on a global scale was growing real.

That day, March 12, Sam Roberts, a veteran Times reporter and editor, emailed his editors on the Obituaries desk — me among them: Should we be thinking about a Portraits of Grief for victims of the virus?

I knew exactly what he had in mind.

Portraits of Grief were short written sketches in The Times, accompanied by photographs, of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks. Beginning as a series that ran for months, the profiles eventually numbered some 2,400 and were published in a book. It was a powerful experience for all who were involved — the editors and writers, the readers and especially the family members of the victims. Like many other Times journalists of a certain generation, I had contributed to the series.

Read more [here](#) . Click [here](#) for link to interactive, Those We Lost. And click [here](#) for Vanity Fair story. (Dan Wakin is a Connecting colleague.)

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A kind act leads to massive Anthony Causi NJ billboard tribute (New York Post)

By George A. King III

As you drive around New Jersey, it will be hard not to notice former Post sports photographer Anthony Causi looking down with a tiny grin from six billboards put up as a tribute from a friend.

How Drew Katz and Causi came to know each other is another example of how amazing a life Causi experienced before COVID-19 took the 48-year-old Brooklyn native away this past Sunday.

“My family used to own the New Jersey Nets and I met him six years ago at a Nets game, and he took a picture of my dad and me and it turned out to be the last picture my dad and I had together because my dad died a week later in a plane crash,” Katz told The Post in a phone call Tuesday evening. His father was Lewis Katz, a former Nets owner who died June 1, 2014. “He sent me the photo and I would see him at games. He was just one of the warmer, most special people. He was always smiling and made you laugh. He never missed a shot. He was unbelievable. He was kind and friendly and sweet.”

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

Today in History - April 17, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 17, the 108th day of 2020. There are 258 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 17, 1961, some 1,500 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in an attempt to topple Fidel Castro, whose forces crushed the incursion by the third day.

On this date:

In 1492, a contract was signed by Christopher Columbus and a representative of Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, giving Columbus a commission to seek a westward ocean passage to Asia.

In 1521, Martin Luther went before the Diet of Worms (vohrms) to face charges stemming from his religious writings. (Luther was later declared an outlaw by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V.)

In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazano reached present-day New York Harbor.

In 1969, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Sirhan Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In 1970, Apollo 13 astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert splashed down safely in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their spacecraft while en route to the moon.

In 1972, the Boston Marathon allowed women to compete for the first time; Nina Kuscsik was the first officially recognized women's champion, with a time of 3:10:26.

In 1973, Federal Express (later FedEx) began operations as 14 planes carrying 186 packages took off from Memphis International Airport, bound for 25 U.S. cities.

In 1975, Cambodia's five-year war ended as the capital Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge, which instituted brutal, radical policies that claimed an estimated 1.7 million lives until the regime was overthrown in 1979.

In 1986, at London's Heathrow Airport, a bomb was discovered in the bag of Anne-Marie Murphy, a pregnant Irishwoman about to board an El Al jetliner to Israel; she'd been tricked into carrying the bomb by her Jordanian fiance, Nezar Hindawi. The bodies of kidnapped American Peter Kilburn and Britons Philip Padfield and Leigh Douglas were found near Beirut; they had been slain in apparent retaliation for the U.S. raid on Libya.

In 1991, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 3,000 for the first time, ending the day at 3,004.46, up 17.58.

In 1993, a federal jury in Los Angeles convicted two former police officers of violating the civil rights of beaten motorist Rodney King; two other officers were acquitted. Turkish President Turgut Ozal died at age 66.

In 2007, a day after the Virginia Tech massacre, President George W. Bush visited the campus, where he told students and teachers at a somber convocation that the nation was praying for them and “there’s a power in these prayers.”

Ten years ago: Some 100,000 Poles filled Warsaw’s biggest public square, joining together for a memorial and funeral Mass for the 96 people killed in a plane crash a week earlier. (A thickening cloud of volcanic ash over Europe caused some world leaders – including President Barack Obama – to cancel plans to attend a state funeral the next day.) Pope Benedict XVI began a pilgrimage in Malta, a Catholic nation buffeted by the worldwide clerical sex abuse scandal.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama left open the door to “creative negotiations” in response to Iran’s demand that punishing sanctions be immediately lifted as part of a nuclear deal (the president spoke at a White House news conference with Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi). Financial officials from the world’s major economies, meeting in Washington, issued a communique welcoming modest improvements in the global economy while side-stepping fears rattling global financial markets that Greece would default on its bailout loans. Cardinal Francis George, the retired archbishop of Chicago, died at age 78.

One year ago: Just days after Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris was ravaged by a fire, police in New York said they had arrested a college philosophy teacher who they said had entered St. Patrick’s Cathedral carrying two cans of gasoline, lighter fluid and butane lighters; they said he had also booked a flight to Rome the following day. (A judge later decided to commit the man to a mental health facility.) The Trump administration intensified its crackdown on Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, rolling back Obama administration policy and announcing new restrictions and sanctions against the three countries. A Florida 18-year-old who authorities said was obsessed with the Columbine school shooting and may have been planning her own attack in Colorado ahead of the 20th anniversary of that shooting was found dead in the mountains outside Denver after a nearly 24-hour manhunt; authorities said Sol Pais had apparently taken her own life.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor David Bradley is 78. Composer-musician Jan Hammer (yahn HAH’-mur) is 72. Actress Olivia Hussey is 69. Actor Clarke Peters is 68. Rapper Afrika Bambaataa is 63. Actor Sean Bean is 61. Former NFL quarterback Boomer Esiason (eh-SY’-uh-suhn) is 59. Actor Joel Murray is 58. Rock singer Maynard James Keenan is 56. Actress Lela Rochon (LEE’-lah rohn-SHAHN’) is 56. Actor William Mapother is 55. Actress Leslie Bega is 53. Actor Henry Ian Cusick is 53. Actress Kimberly Elise is 53. Singer Liz Phair is 53. Director/producer Adam McKay is 52. Rapper-actor Redman is 50. Actress Jennifer Garner is 48. Country musician Craig Anderson is 47. Singer Victoria Adams Beckham is 46. Actress-singer Lindsay Korman is 42. Actor Tate Ellington is 41. Actor Nicholas D’Agosto is 40. Actor Charlie Hofheimer is 39.

Actress Rooney Mara is 35. Actress Jacqueline MacInnes Wood is 33. Actor Paulie Litt is 25. Actress Dee Dee Davis is 24.

Thought for Today: “A cynic is not merely one who reads bitter lessons from the past; he is one who is prematurely disappointed in the future.” – Sydney J. Harris, American journalist (1917-1986).

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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