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Connecting

June 05, 2020

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Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw, left, and other officers attend to Associated Press photographer Matt Rourke after he was assaulted while touring the business district at N. Broad Street and Erie Avenue in Philadelphia on Thursday, June 4, 2020. (Alejandro A. Alvarez/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP)

Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 5th day of June 2020,

We lead today's issue with your responses to a Columbia Journalism Review opinion piece by Amanda Darrach that the press gives too much attention to stories about journalists who are subjected to police violence in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd.

In the essay published Thursday in *Connecting*, she said, "We are not worthier victims just because the fourth estate works to uphold democracy. It's our job. And we'd do well to focus on those who don't have the opportunity to write 800 words about their own importance afterward."

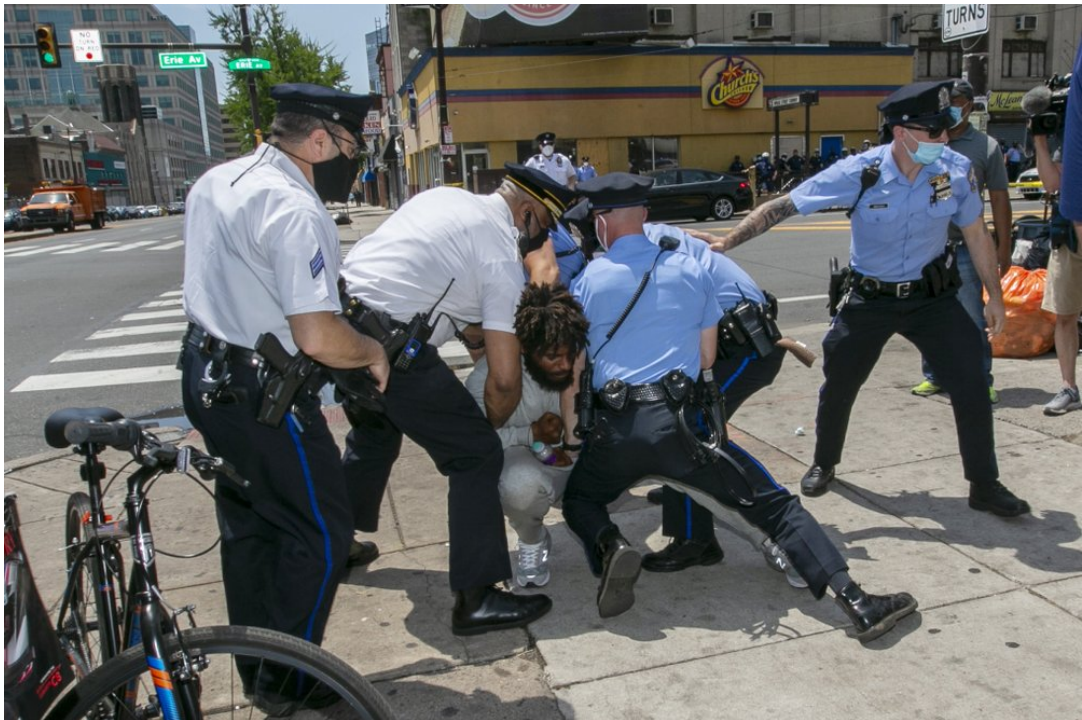
Related: Click [here](#) for Columbia Journalism Review story, "The police abuse the press. Again."

First, however, we bring you a story from Philadelphia where AP photographer **Matt Rourke** was assaulted by a passerby while covering a tour of the business district by Mayor Jim Kenney and Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw. Police apprehended the attacker and the Outlaw was one of the first to tend to Rourke, who was taken to a hospital and expected to be OK.

Have a good weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

AP journalist punched while walking with police commissioner



Philadelphia police tackle a man after he attacked Associated Press Photographer Matt Rourke as he was touring the business district with Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney and Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw in Philadelphia on Thursday, June 4, 2020. (Alejandro A. Alvarez/The Philadelphia Inquirer via AP)

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — An Associated Press photographer on assignment was attacked Thursday afternoon by a passerby while the journalist crossed the street with Philadelphia Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw and Mayor Jim Kenney.

Matt Rourke was making photos of Outlaw and Kenney in North Philadelphia while the two city officials spent time with community members.

As Kenney, Outlaw and several more police officers and members of the media were crossing Broad Street, a man sucker-punched Rourke in his face.

Outlaw was one of the first people to tend to Rourke as he lay on the street bloodied.

It's unclear what prompted the attack.

Police took down the man and arrested him. A Philadelphia Police Department spokeswoman said he remained in police custody Thursday night. An investigation into possible charges is underway.

Rourke was taken to the hospital and is expected to be OK.

(Shared by Mark Mittelstadt)

On coverage of journalists assaulted by police

Anita Snow ([Email](#)) - First, it is pretty clear to me that Amanda Darrach hasn't done much or any field reporting, especially covering large demonstrations.

She graduated from Columbia Journalism School two years ago and while she describes herself as a journalist and documentary filmmaker the only stories I can find by her are recent pieces in CJR, largely media criticism.

All that aside, I do agree with her that the story is not about us and our "victimhood."

But there is an important story that has developed in the US in recent years about the Fourth Estate and its role in a healthy democracy.

Journalists need to be able to do their jobs and inform Americans on the protests that have convulsed cities across the US without fear of being shot in the eye, arrested on live TV without cause, or be covered with pepper spray or tear gas while prone on the ground repeating, “I am press, I am press.”

We are on a slippery slope in today’s America, where truth is at a premium and the president refers to reporters as “enemies of the people.”

Today, journalism and yes, we journalists, are more important than ever to the survival of our great democracy and reporting on how they are being treated by authorities when they are covering massive protests during this critical time in our history is not trivial or narcissistic.

It is vital.

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Rich Kirkpatrick ([Email](#)) - Philadelphia Inquirer education writer Kristen Graham had a chilling account this week of her experience. She volunteered to help cover the protests in Center City Philadelphia. She was returning to her car after covering a tear gas assault on protesters who had blocked the Vine Street Expressway when she was arrested, had her belongings taken, was handcuffed and put in a bus with other protesters. The bus was so hot one other person needed medical attention. This despite the fact she was merely walking and had her press credentials clearly visible.

That is clearly outrageous in what is supposed to be a free society. It is indicative of the sad state that our nation has fallen into in these very troubling times. Being repeatedly labeled enemies of the people seems to have resonated with many people in how they feel about reporters, and that is a very dangerous trend for this nation. I was also outraged at the treatment our AP colleagues in New York received this week, and if I were in charge, I would have been on the phone immediately to the mayor and chief of police raising hell. This is not to minimize in any way the real issues about race and equality that the nation must address immediately. But a free press is critically important to our national well being.

Mike Holmes ([Email](#)) - It seems to me that the answer to the question of whether police assaulting journalists is a story is both yes and no.

No, if the journalists involved are like many of the network and cable TV correspondents I've seen who walk among the protestors (I assume to get a more authentic feel for their reports). Mix in with a chaotic crowd, and you're going to get the same treatment as the crowd.

Yes, if the police know the person they are assaulting is a journalist, which reportedly has happened more than once. In those cases, they are deliberately choosing to silence the public's witnesses to significant events — and the public should know that. Officials should answer what they are trying to keep from the public through use of such tactics. The story isn't just about journalists being attacked, it's about official efforts to control the news.

For too long, the mainstream media refrained from covering itself and explaining its mission to readers and viewers. That has allowed others to brand us as “fake news” and create misunderstanding about who we are, what we do and for whom.

Dennis Conrad ([Email](#)) - The current president of the United States has spent much of his term in office calling journalists “enemies of the American people.” To my recollection, (and yes I remember Nixon) no profession in our nation's history has been so relentlessly and systematically branded by the head of our government as a treasonous threat to the citizenry. When journalists are targeted in the streets by authorities, I want to know as much about it as possible.

If we do not have journalists covering protests, rioting, looting, killings, because they are unable to carry out their jobs, who are we supposed to believe about these events? The president's press secretary?

And who can we count on to tell us how that dead body got in the middle of Fifth Avenue? Not Donald Trump.

Lee Mitgang ([Email](#)) - What's a riot?

Does the current AP stylebook offer guidance on when a demonstration becomes a "riot?" It's a politically loaded word and can be hard to quantify. Does a demonstration become a "riot" if there's any looting or violence, no matter how peaceful the vast majority of participants are? How do you make that call? Or is it one of those "I know one when I see one?" Just wondering how AP is handling that question in the current climate.

And by way of response to how big a deal the violence against journalists is, I'd say it's a huge deal for this country -- and I want to plug the Committee to Protect Journalists (<https://www.cpj.org>) whose board chair is Kathleen Carroll and Terry Anderson is honorary chair. If you have a few dollars to spare, this wouldn't be the worst place to send them.

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Sonya Zalubowski ([Email](#)) - You know I think journos do have more rights than regular protestors just based on what they are there for. Without them, there is no report.

Free movement of journos is protected under the Helsinki Accord. One would think that would apply in your very own country.

Thanks again for taking on these subjects! Makes for lively reading.

**Strangely humbling to watch
someone else airing my own
nation's dirty laundry**



Bob Reid in baseball cap Wednesday amid protesters on 16th Street near the White House

Robert Reid ([Email](#)) - It was a scene I'd witnessed many times before in my AP career – crowds of protesters armed with posters, banners and righteous indignation.

Suddenly the mood changed. One of the protesters smashed a police car windshield. Cops responded with flash-bang projectiles, tear gas and concentrated pepper spray. Protesters and spectators, including me, scurried away, eyes stinging and watering from the spray.

When I stopped a half block down the street, I found myself next to a correspondent for an Arab language cable channel. She was broadcasting live to her audience 6,000 miles away in a part of the world no stranger to political unrest.

What irony! For more than three decades as a foreign correspondent for AP, I reported on social and political unrest in places as varied as Poland, Egypt, Bosnia, India, and the Philippines — just to name a few.

Now the tables were turned. No longer was I pontificating about someone else's problems in far-off Khartoum, Cairo, Manila or Tehran. Now, in Washington, D.C., I was one of those "locals" whose home was embroiled in conflict.



Protesters and police square off on H Street Sunday near the White House. Photo/Bob Reid

I don't speak much Arabic so I could only speculate what she might have been saying. I wondered if she understood enough about American history and

culture to get it right.

Heaven knows my colleagues and I often got it wrong because of our own outsider's ignorance, even if we didn't realize it at the time.

Maybe she was saying something ridiculous like "America's Christian heritage makes it difficult to challenge authority" based on parts of the New Testament that say things like "whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against God."

I could hardly blame her if that were what she was reporting. After all, more than one Western commentator has cherry-picked lines from another holy book to conclude that Muslims are incapable of self-government.

Or maybe she was short-handing America's complex racial history with a glib reference to "ancient tribal rivalries."

That's a phrase that has crept into more than one Western media report from Africa, the Middle East or the former Yugoslavia.

After all, the standoff I witnessed Sunday in Washington was playing out in front of the site of the old Wormsley Hotel. That's where Democrats and Republicans cut a deal in 1877 to end Reconstruction and put an end to civil liberties granted to former slaves after the Civil War.

Maybe 143 years isn't quite "ancient," but it does say something about America's unresolved conflicts.

Who knows? Maybe that Arab correspondent's report was "spot on," as the British would say. That's entirely possible. My experience is that foreigners know far more about the United States than Americans know about most -- if not all -- other countries.

I'll never know. She and her camera operator moved on, and I walked home about a mile away.

What I do know was that, after decades of reporting about other people's troubles, it was strangely humbling to watch someone else airing my own nation's dirty laundry.

Connecting mailbox

Recalling his playing days in 'Synthetic Conflict League'

Dan Day ([Email](#)) - I thoroughly enjoyed reading that takeout on the New York media league, which triggered a number of fond memories of playing softball in the Milwaukee Journal's "Synthetic Conflict League" early in my career. Joining the AP in Milwaukee in 1981, one of the biggest questions I had (after "will my pregnant wife get health insurance?") was whether I'd be able to play again in the SCL.

As a reporting intern at the Journal in 1979, I was invited to play in SCL pickup games once a week in a city park. I loved every minute, playing ball alongside newsroom stars like City Hall reporter Ron Elving (now with NPR) and sports editor Bill Dwyre (later sports editor at the LA Times).

After a year away in Illinois for my first job, I returned to Milwaukee and rejoined the league, which was named in joking reference to Mayor Henry Maier. He claimed the Journal was always stirring up "synthetic conflicts," a nuanced term for what today is proclaimed "fake news."

As for my wife, she got on the insurance plan after three months. Daughter Katie was born that summer, having the good sense to arrive on a Friday. I didn't have to miss a game.

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You and your phones on the job



Hal Bock ([Email](#)) - I have a long relationship with telephones. Here I am at winter baseball meetings in Orlando working with a rotary dial Mickey Mouse edition. Rotary dial testifies to my age which is also proven by my membership in Connecting's 80s Club. Mickey phone was courtesy of Disney World.

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AP photographer wins RFK Journalism Award for Venezuela coverage



Zaida Bravo, who suffers from Parkinson's disease and is malnourished, waits for dinner on her dirty mattress in her one-room living quarters in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Nov. 28, 2019. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd)

By Patrick Maks

Gripping images showing the scope and impact of Venezuela's political crisis earned AP photojournalist Rodrigo Abd the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for international photography on Thursday.

In a yearlong series of photos, Abd, a senior photographer based in Lima, Peru, captured the country's collapse from the ground up, developing trust with residents to tell the stories of how ordinary Venezuelans are suffering.

In Maracaibo, once the center of Venezuela's booming oil industry, Abd's photos showed how locals struggle to get by without electricity, drinking water or reliable sources of food, all while, trying to bury loved ones and protect them from gravediggers.

Abd spent 18 days living with a crab fisherman and his family to depict their fight for survival as leaky underwater oil pipelines devastated their catch.

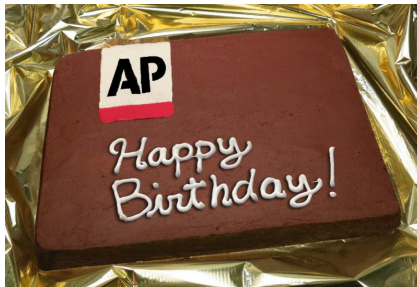
He similarly embedded in the slums of Caracas, at great personal risk, spending long days creating a rapport with ruthless gunmen, gangsters who opened up to him and described being raised in the crime-filled streets of the country's capital.



Abd was part of the AP team that won a 2019 RFK Journalism Award for coverage of U.S. immigration policies under President Donald Trump.

A full list of this year's RFK Journalism Award winners can be found [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Sally Buzbee - sbuzbee@ap.org

David Espo - davidmespo@gmail.com

Nolan Kienitz - nolantx@outlook.com

Tom Jory - thjory@gmail.com

On Sunday to...

Hank Waters - hjwatersiii@gmail.com

Stories of interest

Photographers are being called on to stop showing protesters' faces. Should they?

(Poynter)



Demonstrators kneel in a moment of silence outside the Long Beach Police Department on Sunday, May 31, 2020, in Long Beach during a protest over the death of George Floyd. (AP Photo/Ashley Landis)

By Eliana Miller and Nicole Asbury

Photographs of protests are everywhere, from the news to your social media feed. But there's a growing movement that calls for journalists and citizens to blur or not show protester's faces.

So what should visual journalists do?

Legally, there's no question — when protesters are in public spaces engaged in newsworthy activity, visual journalists are well within their rights to document them. But protesters fear potential retaliation when images become public.

Donna De Cesare, a University of Texas professor, spent 20 years weighing these concerns while working as a freelance visual journalist focusing on Latin America.

“The public has a right to know; we have a right to go out and take the pictures. But we also have to think about how our work impacts people's lives,” she said. In Medellin, Colombia, she photographed in areas with gang and paramilitary violence. “People are very sensitive there, too. The media usually can't get pictures.”

Her solution was to photograph her subjects using angles and positions where faces were obscured.

Read more [here](#) .

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New York Times says senator's op-ed didn't meet standards

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — In an embarrassing about-face, The New York Times said Thursday that an opinion piece it ran by U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton advocating the use of federal troops to quell nationwide protests about police mistreatment of black Americans did not meet its standards.

Cotton's op-ed, titled "Send in the Troops" and first posted online late Wednesday, caused a revolt among Times journalists, with some saying it endangered black employees. Some staff members called in sick Thursday in protest.

The Times said in a statement that a "rushed editorial process" led to publication of a piece that did not meet its standards.

Cotton taunted the paper on Twitter Thursday night, accusing it of "surrendering to the mindless woke mob."

Read more [here](#) .

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23 guidelines for journalists to safely cover protests (Poynter)

By **AL TOMPKINS**

It was an unsettled weekend in America as demonstrators nationwide protested police brutality and the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police officers. Journalists covering the protests have been hit with tear gas and bean bag rounds and several have been arrested. Others have been attacked by demonstrators.

Journalists will find themselves in harm's way as they continue to document this important story. Poynter has prepared a handout of these guidelines for you to circulate to staff. We are also linking to important legal advice for journalists at the bottom of this article.

Your goal should be to get close enough to observe the scene without endangering yourself or others or interfering with security or rescue operations.

Read more [here](#) .

The Final Word

On this day, 76 years ago today...



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the Day. 'Full victory-nothing less' to paratroopers in England, just before they board their airplanes to participate in the first assault in the invasion of the continent of Europe." Eisenhower is meeting with US Co. E, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment (Strike) of the 101st Airborne Division, photo taken at Greenham Common Airfield in England about 8:30 p.m. on June 5, 1944. The General was talking about fly fishing with his men as he always did before a stressful operation. (Unknown U.S. Army Photographer; via Library of Congress)

On June 6, 1944, Allied forces launched the greatest amphibious invasion the world has ever seen.

Today in History - June 5, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 5, the 157th day of 2020. There are 209 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 5, 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and mortally wounded after claiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was arrested at the scene.

On this date:

In 1794, Congress passed the Neutrality Act, which prohibited Americans from taking part in any military action against a country that was at peace with the United States.

In 1912, U.S. Marines landed in Cuba at the order of President William Howard Taft to ensure order and protect U.S. interests.

In 1933, the United States went off the gold standard.

In 1950, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Henderson v. United States*, struck down racially segregated railroad dining cars.

In 1967, war erupted in the Middle East as Israel, anticipating a possible attack by its Arab neighbors, launched a series of pre-emptive airfield strikes that destroyed nearly the entire Egyptian air force; Syria, Jordan and Iraq immediately entered the conflict.

In 1981, the Centers for Disease Control reported that five homosexuals in Los Angeles had come down with a rare kind of pneumonia; they were the first recognized cases of what later became known as AIDS.

In 1999, jazz and pop singer Mel Torme died in Los Angeles at age 73.

In 2002, 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart was abducted from her Salt Lake City home. (Smart was found alive by police in a Salt Lake suburb in March 2003. One kidnapper, Brian David Mitchell, is serving a prison sentence; the other, Wanda Barzee, was released in September, 2018.)

In 2004, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, died in Los Angeles at age 93 after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

In 2006, more than 50 National Guardsmen from Utah became the first unit to work along the U.S.-Mexico border as part of President George W. Bush's crackdown on illegal immigration.

In 2013, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians, many of them sleeping women and children, pleaded guilty to murder at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to avoid the death penalty; he was sentenced to life in prison.

In 2018, fashion designer Kate Spade, known for her sleek handbags, was found dead in her Park Avenue apartment in New York in what the medical examiner determined was a suicide by hanging; she was 55.

Ten years ago: Israeli forces seized a Gaza-bound aid vessel, the Rachel Corrie, without meeting resistance days after a similar effort turned bloody. Finance ministers and central bankers from the world's leading economies meeting in Busan, South Korea, agreed on the need to cooperate in fending off financial market turmoil and keeping the world economic recovery on track. Francesca Schiavone beat Samantha Stosur of Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (2), to win the French Open, giving Italy its first female champion at a Grand Slam tournament.

Five years ago: The Social Security Administration's inspector general found that disability beneficiaries had been overpaid by nearly \$17 billion over the previous decade, raising alarms about the massive program. Former Iraqi Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, 79, died in Nasiriyah of a heart attack while in captivity. A broken bat flew into the stands at Fenway Park during an Oakland Athletics-Boston Red Sox game, seriously injuring fan Tonya Carpenter.

One year ago: An Ohio doctor, William Husel, was charged with murder in the deaths of 25 hospital patients who authorities said had been killed with deliberate overdoses of painkillers, many of them administered by other medical workers on his orders. (Husel has pleaded not guilty.) A court in Germany found Niels Hoegel, a 42-year-old nurse, guilty of murdering 85 patients and sentenced him to life in prison; he admitted causing cardiac arrests in patients by injecting them with overdoses of drugs because he enjoyed the feeling of being able to resuscitate them, but sometimes his efforts failed. (Hoegel had earlier been convicted of two other killings.) The Trump administration said it was ending medical research by government scientists that used human fetal tissue. Officials in Nepal said a government expedition to Mount Everest had removed more than 24,000 pounds of garbage and four dead bodies. Carrie Underwood extended her run as the most decorated act in the history of the CMT awards with her 20th win.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Bill Hayes is 95. Broadcast journalist Bill Moyers is 86. Former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark is 81. Author Dame Margaret Drabble is 81. Country singer Don Reid (The Statler Brothers) is 75. Rock musician Freddie Stone (AKA Freddie Stewart) (Sly and the Family Stone) is 73. Rock singer Laurie Anderson is 73. Country singer Gail Davies is 72. Author Ken Follett is 71. Financial guru Suze Orman is 69. Rock musician Nicko McBrain (Iron Maiden) is 68. Jazz musician Peter Erskine is 66. Jazz musician Kenny G is 64. Rock singer Richard Butler (Psychedelic Furs) is 64. Actress Beth Hall is 62. Actor Jeff Garlin is 58. Actress Karen Sillas is 57. Actor Ron Livingston is 53. Singer Brian McKnight is 51. Rock musician Claus Norreen (Aqua) is 50. Actor Mark Wahlberg is 49. Actor Chad Allen is 46. Rock musician P-Nut (311) is 46. Actress Navi Rawat (ROH'-waht) is 43. Actress Liza Weil is 43. Rock musician Pete Wentz (Fall Out Boy) is 41. Rock musician Seb Lefebvre (Simple Plan) is 39. Actress Chelsey Crisp is 37. Actress Amanda Crew is 34. Electronic musician Harrison Mills (Odesza) is 31. Musician/songwriter/producer DJ Mustard is 30. Actress Sophie Lowe is 30. Actor Hank Greenspan is ten.

Thought for Today: "What is objectionable, what is dangerous, about extremists is not that they are extreme, but that they are intolerant. The

evil is not what they say about their cause, but what they say about their opponents.” [-] Robert F. Kennedy, U.S. senator (1925-1968).

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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