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## Connecting July 02, 2020

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Colleagues,

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

Want to play a role in helping preserve Stars and Stripes?

One way to join the effort would be to log on to the Friends of Stripes [website](#) – created by the Stars and Stripes Publisher’s Advisory Board – which on February 14, 2020, less than a week after the U.S. Department of Defense announced the elimination of \$15 million for Stars and Stripes operations, committed itself to the advocacy, education and potential lobbying that would restore crucial funding for Stars and Stripes.

You’ll find on the site ways to make a contribution – through financial support by contributing to Stripes or purchasing a digital subscription ... or by making your voice heard by those making decisions: (1) Contact your

Congressional representative directly; and, (2) send the board your letter to the editor and it will share it via the website and social media.

Connecting colleague **Dave Mazzarella** ([Email](#)), a member of the board, shares this letter he addressed to Sen. Richard Shelby, head of the Defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations committee, and also went to all members. The editors mentioned are both AP alumni, **Terry Leonard**, editorial director, and **Bob Reid**, executive editor.



Dear Senator Shelby:

The First Amendment to the Constitution is about to suffer a blow from the very institution committed to protecting it.

Without warning, the Pentagon's proposed 2021 budget ends the entire annual subsidy owed to Stars and Stripes, the DoD-owned but independent newspaper that is an informational lifeline to America's military community. Especially to those troops dodging bullets and bombs on the front lines. They have scant means of otherwise being informed of news important to them.

The Pentagon says it needs the money – a relatively small infusion of \$15.5 million in a budget of \$705 billion. Stars and Stripes needs it because the cost of far-flung distribution to troops is more than it can earn on its own through subscriptions and advertising.

If the Pentagon argument wins, the result would be a drastic downsizing if not total demise of a newspaper whose proud heritage dates to the Civil War and whose independent mission was sanctified by Congress.

As a member of the Stars and Stripes Publisher's Advisory Board, I am appealing to you to fight for the newspaper's survival in the now-underway budget process.

The newspaper is not merely a bulletin board for official announcements but a hard-driving, nonpartisan, award-winning newspaper whose two top editors are former international bureau chiefs for The Associated Press. And it's not just 32 pages of newsprint but a total communications unit. Its platforms are print, web, tablet, mobile devices e-newspapers, video, podcasts and social media.

To an audience of 1.4 million on any given day, it reports news to men and women in the field as well as veterans everywhere – news they can get from no other source – not just the worldwide course of Covid-19, for instance, but how it is affecting Mr. and

Ms. Servicemember. It has no viewpoint of its own, no editorial page. And the columns it prints from other correspondents must be politically balanced.

Yet there has been tension between the newspaper and the public relations branches of the Pentagon. Where some officers see invasive reporting, Stars and Stripes sees ordinary news gathering. In some of those instances – including an ill-fated attempt to force Stripes to move into the bailiwick of the public affairs department – Congress has wrapped its protective arms around Stripes.

This time, as the proposed budget cut was surfacing, the DoD's acting controller stated, "In the modern age" running a newspaper "is probably not the best way we communicate." To that, Ernie Gates, the newspaper's ombudsman, occupying a Congressionally created position, wrote: "Stars and Stripes' mission is not to communicate the DoD command message. So 'we communicate' misses the mission."

Gates included Stars and Stripes squarely under the protections of the First Amendment, which lies under the protection of the Constitution, which in turn is championed by the Armed Forces. He wrote: "Stripes is part of a free press – free of censorship, free of command interferences, free of prior restraint or prior review."

Interviewed by the Columbia Journalism Review (CJR), Jonathan Peters, a professor at the University of Georgia, said: "I would argue that Stars and Stripes, as an editorially independent organization, is a designated public forum under the First Amendment." Thus its free speech is protected – only in this case its "speech" is not opinion but news.

Another member of the Publisher's Advisory Board, Rufus Friday of Kentucky, wrote to Mitch McConnell. He asked him save Stars and Stripes. McConnell described himself as a "longtime defender and proponent of the First Amendment." He went on: "While the President's budget request for fiscal 2021 proposed cuts to Stars and Stripes' federal funding, it is up to the Congress to determine the total amount appropriated for this newspaper."

That is so, and we hope the Defense Subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Appropriations likewise stands up for the First Amendment and the troops who defend it, by restoring to the FY21 budget the funding that keeps Stars and Stripes in their hands.

Dave notes that you're welcome to borrow from the letter to address your own members of Congress.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

*Including AP*

## China demands info from 4 media companies in response to US

BEIJING (AP) — China has demanded staff and business information from four U.S. media companies including The Associated Press in what it called a necessary response to similar demands by Washington on Chinese state-controlled news outlets.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian announced Wednesday that the AP, United Press International, CBS and National Public Radio had seven days to file declarations regarding their staff, financial operations, real estate ownership and other matters.

“It should be pointed out that the above-mentioned measures by China are completely necessary countermeasures and are completely legitimate defenses compelled by unreasonable suppression of the U.S. side on Chinese media agencies in the United States,” Zhao said at a daily briefing.

The Trump administration last month added four Chinese media outlets to a list of organizations that should be considered “foreign missions” because of their ties to the government and the ruling Communist Party. That move could force them to cut staff in the U.S. and adds to a long list of frictions in economic and political relations between the two countries.

Read more [here](#) .

## VIRUS DIARY: Moving closer to grandsons they can barely see



By **WILLIAM J. KOLE**

WARWICK, R.I. (AP) — A child's swing twists forlornly in the breeze beneath the behemoth maple tree that shades our home. It's become a symbol of our sad coronavirus exile.

A year and a half ago, we moved from what we thought was our forever home steps from Cape Cod Bay to Rhode Island, just so we could be close to our two young grandsons. They used to be an hour and 10 minutes' drive from us. Now we're 12 minutes away.

Empty nesters now, we gladly and giddily bought a bigger house than we needed, complete with a fenced-in yard and the swing.

But my wife's immune system was trashed by a nasty bout with Lyme disease, and we realized in the first days of the pandemic that we'd have to take extra precautions. Immunocompromised people and those aged 60 and older are among those most at risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19. It's a harsh and unforgiving demographic.

Until very recently, the best we could do since early March was to pull down our masks and make funny faces at the boys from the sidewalk during furtive drive-bys past their home. Anything more and we risked infecting or becoming infected.

Love had brought us all closer, until love forced us to stay apart.

Read more [here](#) .

## TELEPHONE TALES: ‘Who’s this?’ ‘Who’s this?’

**Charlie Hanley** (Email) - It’s the final hours of 1992 and the early days of sat phones. I’m alone in Baidoa, in the godforsaken heart of Somalia, needing to speak with Reid Miller, running the Somali show from Mogadishu. Perhaps I had a story. Perhaps I just needed to hear a friendly voice.

Up above, on the roof of the dump where I’m holed up, a big antenna points its parabola toward the stars. Down below, I dial up a sat phone company's switchboard somewhere (London?). That's the way those early phones worked. “Get me Mogadishu!” (or some such). Followed by the usual beeps, groans and other mysterious sounds of the universe. Finally someone picks up.

“Hello.” It’s an unexpected voice, a woman’s. Also, there’s booming in the background. Artillery? Mortars? Mogadishu?

“Is Reid Miller there?”

“Reid Miller? Who is this?”

“It’s Charlie Hanley. Who’s this?”

“It’s Susan Linnee, Charlie.” More booms. “In Sarajevo.”

Sarajevo?! I launch into some nonsense about our amazing new journalistic world, blah, blah. And our late, admired colleague Susan, never one to happily suffer fools like me, cuts me off: “Can’t chat. I’m interviewing a Bosnian major.”

Wrong war. Back to the switchboard. “Reid, you won’t believe what just happened...”

## Thanks to Stuart Levitan for holding the phone

**Cheryl Arvidson** ( [Email](#) ) - I arrived in the Washington UPI bureau from Iowa on the day of the Saturday Night Massacre in October 1973. Although my actual job assignment was Southern regional congressional correspondent, I was immediately drafted as a backup to the two veteran reporters covering the Watergate trials,

basically as a third person in case either of the two regular people were not available. As luck would have it, one of the two was gone virtually all the time, so I ended up covering both the Ellsberg break-in trial and the Watergate cover-up trial.

The day the Ellsberg break-in trial wrapped up in the federal courthouse, we went about coverage pretty much as usual until the closing arguments of prosecution and defense were finished and the sequestered jury was removed from the courtroom. Only then did Judge Gerhard Gesell inform us that there had been a jail break in the jail in the basement of the courthouse earlier that afternoon, and armed inmates were holding guards as hostages. Gesell said we could still use the press room to file our stories but he was moving the jury instructions and deliberations, set to begin the following day, to the Maritime Court, a much smaller court on the federal grounds that was about a 5-minute walk from the main courthouse.

The next morning, we all arrived at the Maritime Court. but the courtroom was so small that only one person per news organization was allowed inside to cover the judge's instructions to the jury. Of course, the lead reporter got that spot, so I was left sitting outside for nearly two hours waiting for the instructions to end and for the jury to get the case and begin deliberations. As it turned out, I struck up a conversation with a young college journalist, Stuart Levitan, who had come from Madison, Wis., to watch the verdict and aftermath of the first Watergate case against Nixon's three closest aides (Haldeman, Erlichman and Attorney General John Mitchell).

The jury got the case around noon, and all the reporters who had been covering the trial went back to the press room to settle in for a long wait. We started a pool on how long it would take to reach a verdict. As I recall, I said two days. The lead UPI reporter told me, the kid, that he was going back to the UPI office to catch up on some other things and I could sit and wait out the jury which I was happy to do. But much to all of our shock, the judge arrived at the press room door around 5 p.m. and announced that there was a verdict. Everyone jumped up and ran, literally ran, to the Maritime Court. I was so new and green that I just jumped up and ran too, not even calling the desk to alert them that we had a verdict. I realized as I was running that I not only had made no call to the desk, I was alone covering a huge story against about a million AP reporters (a typical UPI condition). There were no cell phones then of course, and there were only two pay phones in the lobby of the Maritime Court. I knew that I probably would not be able to get one of those pay phones to dictate the bulletin on the verdict since I couldn't hold a phone and cover the story at the same time. But just as I was reeling from the realization that I would be seriously late filing the most important story of my life and the first major trial of the Watergate scandal, we arrived at the Maritime Court, and blessedly, there was Stuart Levitan!

I grabbed a quarter, pressed it in his hand, and wrote out the UPI bureau number and the name of my colleague. I told Stuart to call the number, get the reporter on the line and tell him to get his ass up here to help me, and most importantly, to hold the telephone for me against all comers. Stuart did just that, and I was able to rush to the phone and dictate my first-ever bulletin on the conviction of the first major Nixon administration officials in the Watergate scandal. I was saved by pure luck from what could have been a total disaster. To this day, I remember Stuart fondly and look at him as one of the keys to my successful reporting career.

# The rest of the story ... from Pakistan

**Henry Bradsher** ([Email](#)) - On Arnold Zeitlin's forwarding (in Wednesday's Connecting) Scott Butcher's recollections of East Pakistan when the army cracked down in 1971, the story that Scott was unable to file for us finally got out.

I had reported from East Pakistan on repeated visits from AP New Delhi from 1959 to 1964, becoming familiar with the way the West Pakistan establishment mistreated the East. But in national elections for parliament in December 1970 that I covered for The Washington Star, the eastern leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman won a majority in the national parliament. The western establishment was unwilling to lose control. On the evening of March 25, 1971, the western-manned Pakistan army began arresting Rahman and other Bengali leaders, smashing local newspaper offices, burning some opposition areas, and generally cracking down. Troops surrounded the only decent hotel in Dacca (Dhaka), where all the foreign correspondents were housed. We were locked in at gunpoint with communications cut, listening to BBC reports of the untruthful official Pakistani account.

As Scott remembered, Sydney Schanberg of the NY Times, John Woodruff of the Baltimore Sun, a Newsweek correspondent whose name I don't remember, and I agreed to write one joint report and try to get it out. However, Scott was unable to file it for us. I told the story of what happened next in Connecting on July 15, 2016, in writing about Schanberg's inadequate obit in The NY Times.

Briefly, that joint report was filed from Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), by the NY Times stringer during a refueling stop while the journalists from Dacca were being flown under armed guards to Karachi. Released in Karachi, I flew to Bombay (Mumbai) and cabled The Star to ask The Times for the report. It was published first by the Saturday afternoon Star and quoted by AP, because Zeitlin -- who had been out of the hotel earlier -- was stuck in Dacca along with AP photographer Michel Laurent (who, after leaving AP, was the last journalist killed in the Vietnam war).

Back in East Pakistan from my Hong Kong base several times during the nine-month struggle for East Pakistan's independence, in which some one million died, I was there when the Pakistani army surrendered on December 16 to an Indian army that had come in to support indigenous guerrillas. Communications were down, but the American consulate sent several times one consolidated report from the American correspondents in Dacca for Washington to distribute to their news organizations -- the thing Scott was unable to do at the beginning.

These reports included the bayonetting of bound prisoners by victorious guerrillas. Horst Faas and Laurent won for AP a Pulitzer for photos of that. Overall, it was a bloody birth for Bangladesh.

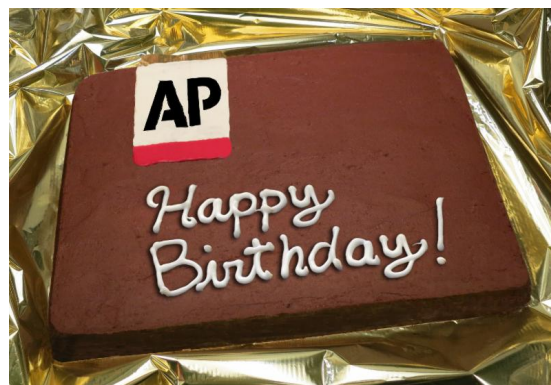


# Connecting sky shot - Chincoteague Island, Virginia



Shared by Francesca Pitaro ( [Email](#) )

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



to

Donna Davidson - [ddavidson@ap.org](mailto:ddavidson@ap.org)

Jim Robertson - [jimrobertson203@gmail.com](mailto:jimrobertson203@gmail.com)

# Welcome to Connecting



Joseph Frederick - [joefrederick1@yahoo.com](mailto:joefrederick1@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

### *iHeartMedia to Launch BIN: Black Information Network on Radio, Digital Channels* (Variety)

By Todd Spangler

Radio and podcast giant iHeartmedia has accelerated the launch what it says it the first — and only — 24-hour service dedicated to news coverage from a Black perspective.

BIN: Black Information Network is “focused on service to the Black community and providing an information window for those outside the community to help foster communication, accountability and a deeper understanding,” the company announced Tuesday.

BIN will be distributed nationally through the iHeartRadio app and accessible via mobile, smart speakers, smart TVs and other connected platforms. Programming also will be on all-news local AM/FM broadcast radio stations providing local news, weather traffic and sports in addition to national news in markets including Atlanta, Charlotte, Cleveland, Augusta, Ga., Columbus, Ga., Macon, Ga., Detroit, Greenville, N.C., Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, Norfolk, Va., Riverside, Calif., San Francisco and Seattle, with additional local markets being added over the next 60 days.

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

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## ***Fox News fires Ed Henry after sexual misconduct allegation***

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News on Wednesday fired daytime news anchor Ed Henry after an investigation of sexual misconduct in the workplace.

The network said it had received a complaint last Thursday from an attorney about the misconduct. An outside investigator was hired and, based on the results of that probe, Fox fired Henry.

Fox offered no details of the complaint that resulted in Henry's firing, only to say that it happened "years ago." A lawyer for Henry, Catherine Foti, said he denied the allegations "and is confident that he will be vindicated after a full hearing in an appropriate forum.

Henry, who co-anchored "America's Newsroom" between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon on weekdays, had slowly rehabilitated his career on Fox following a four-month leave of absence that ended in 2016. That followed published reports of Henry's extramarital affair with a Las Vegas cocktail waitress.

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

## **Today in History - July 2, 2020**



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Thursday, July 2, the 184th day of 2020. There are 182 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On July 2, 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot by Charles J. Guiteau (gee-TOH') at the Washington railroad station; Garfield died the following September. (Guiteau was hanged in June 1882.)

**On this date:**

In 1566, French astrologer, physician and professed prophet Nostradamus died in Salon (sah-LOHN').

In 1776, the Continental Congress passed a resolution saying that "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1917, rioting erupted in East St. Louis, Illinois, as white mobs attacked Black residents; nearly 50 people, mostly Blacks, are believed to have died in the violence.

In 1937, aviator Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first round-the-world flight along the equator.

In 1961, author Ernest Hemingway shot himself to death at his home in Ketchum, Idaho.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy met Pope Paul VI at the Vatican, the first meeting between a Catholic U.S. chief executive and the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law a sweeping civil rights bill passed by Congress.

In 1976, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Gregg v. Georgia*, ruled 7-2 the death penalty was not inherently cruel or unusual.

In 1986, ruling in a pair of cases, the Supreme Court upheld affirmative action as a remedy for past job discrimination.

In 1987, 18 Mexican immigrants were found dead inside a locked boxcar near Sierra Blanca, Texas, in what authorities called a botched smuggling attempt; a 19th man survived.

In 2009, federal marshals took possession of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's \$7 million Manhattan penthouse, forcing Madoff's wife, Ruth, to move elsewhere.

In 2018, rescue divers in Thailand found 12 boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding as they explored a cave more than a week earlier.

Ten years ago: Gen. David Petraeus arrived in Afghanistan to assume command of U.S. and NATO forces after his predecessor, Gen. Stanley McChrystal, was fired for intemperate remarks he'd made about Obama administration figures in Rolling Stone magazine. The United States defeated Japan 7-2 to win its seventh consecutive world softball championships. British novelist Beryl Bainbridge, 77, died in London.

Five years ago: Trying to close the books on the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history, BP agreed to provide billions of dollars in new money to five Gulf Coast states in a deal the company said would bring its full obligations to an estimated \$53.8 billion. A Philippine ferry, the Kim Nirvana, capsized after leaving port in Ormoc City, killing about 60 people.

One year ago: Lee Iacocca, the automobile executive who helped launch some of Detroit's best-selling vehicles at Ford and then Chrysler, died in California at the age of 94. Fire erupted at a Jim Beam warehouse in Kentucky that was filled with about 45,000 barrels of aging bourbon; the warehouse and bourbon were a total loss and the bourbon leaked into nearby creeks and rivers. A decorated Navy SEAL, Edward Gallagher, was acquitted of murder in the killing of a wounded Islamic State captive in Iraq but was convicted of posing with the corpse. (Gallagher would be sentenced to four months' confinement, but was set free since he had spent more time in custody awaiting trial; the case led to a conflict between President Donald Trump and armed services leaders over military discipline and forced the ouster of Navy Secretary Richard Spencer.)

Today's Birthdays: Former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos is 91. Jazz musician Ahmad Jamal is 90. Actor Robert Ito is 89. Actress Polly Holliday is 83. Racing Hall of Famer Richard Petty is 83. Former White House chief of staff John H. Sununu is 81. Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is 78. Writer-director-comedian Larry David is 73. Luci Baines Johnson, daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson, is 73. Actor Saul Rubinek is 72. Rock musician Roy Bittan (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 71. Rock musician Gene Taylor is 68. Actress Wendy Schaal is 66. Actress-model Jerry Hall is 64. Actor Jimmy McNichol is 59. Country singer Guy Penrod is 57. Rock musician Dave Parsons (Bush) is 55. Actress Yancy Butler is 50. Contemporary Christian musician Melodee DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 44. Actor Owain (OH'-wyn) Yeoman is 42. Race car driver Sam Hornish Jr. is 41. NHL center Joe Thornton is 41. Singer Michelle Branch is 37. Actress Vanessa Lee Chester is 36. Figure skater Johnny Weir is 36. Actor Nelson Franklin is 35. Actress-singer Ashley Tisdale is 35. Actress Lindsay Lohan (LOH'-uhn) is 34. Actress Margot Robbie is 30.

## Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your

colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"**- a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.

- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**  
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