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Connecting July 09, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Thursday morning on this the 9th day of July 2020,

A good friend – socially distant, of course – shared these words of hope in the age of COVID-19:

Again. We say again. We will begin again. Breathe again. Dance again. Laugh again. Love again. Try again. Yes. We will meet again. And it will be good. Again.

And the photo at right, shared by colleague **Scott Charton**, brings an uplift as well: “After 96 years on this Earth, great-grandma Honey Charton has advice for happiness: Snuggle a puppy!” (A breeder of Havanese dogs brought

seven puppies to visit residents of the retiree apartment in Columbia, Missouri, where Jimmie Dean "Honey" Charton lives. Scott took this photo of his mom.)

100-Year Anniversary? On Tuesday, colleague **David Briscoe** told us about the two celebrations of his 50 years of marriage to his wife **Nory** - the first June 17, 1970, at a Mormon church in the Philippines and the second, 25 days later (July 12), at a Catholic chapel south of Manila. (Even using journo-math, 50 plus 50 equals 100.)



Which leads to today's question: How long have you been with your partner? Or how long had you been if she or he is gone? Share your story of how you met. Any AP ties to tell us about?

Here's to a good day ahead – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Dateline-Saigon - documentary on five Pulitzer-winning journalists - to stream July 14

DATELINE-SAIGON

Directed by Thomas D. Herman
Narrated by Sam Waterston
www.dateline-saigon.com

OFFICIAL SELECTION
History Film Festival
2019

WINNER
BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE
**MIDDLEBURY
NEW FILMMAKERS
FESTIVAL**
2018

WINNER
AUDIENCE AWARD
Documentary Feature
**WOODS HOLE
FILM FESTIVAL**

2018
**BERKSHIRE
INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL**
OFFICIAL SELECTION



Photo: Horst Faas

Best Documentary
Feature
Coronado Island
Film Festival
2018

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SEDONA
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

DATELINE - SAIGON
2017 NEWPORT BEACH FILM FESTIVAL
JURY AWARD
BEST DOCUMENTARY
HONORABLE MENTION

OFFICIAL SELECTION
SALEM FILM FEST
2017

David Halberstam
New York Times

Malcolm Browne
Associated Press

Neil Sheehan
United Press International



Peter Arnett
Associated Press





Horst Faas
Associated Press

LIES, DECEPTION, AND THE DANGEROUS SEARCH FOR TRUTH

“If the government is telling the truth, reporters become a minor, relatively unimportant conduit to what is happening. But when the government doesn’t tell the truth, begins to twist the truth, hide the truth, then the journalist becomes involuntarily infinitely more important.”

David Halberstam, *The New York Times*, in *Dateline–Saigon*

DATELINE – SAIGON

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Dateline: Saigon is coming to primetime.

The documentary that tells the story of a small group of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists – three of whom were with The Associated Press - premieres July 14 on Amazon Prime video, iTunes; Apple TV and other streaming channels.

The journalists - **David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Malcolm Browne, Peter Arnett and Horst Faas** – “fought to report a truth that was vastly different from the rosy version

put forth by the White House during the early years of the Vietnam War...even as their own government sought to discredit them," according to a news release. It is narrated by American actor, producer and director **Sam Waterston** .

Halberstam covered the Vietnam War for The New York Times, Sheehan, for United Press International, and Browne, Arnett and Faas, for The Associated Press.

The documentary has been screened at a number of festivals, said director/producer **Tom Herman** , a Connecting colleague, and has won a number of "Best Documentary" awards. Other than a handful of universities, this is the wide distribution premiere.

There is much more on the film – including the trailer – on the official [website](#) .

Welcomed story on 'Flash Davis'

Dennis Anderson ([Email](#)) - I so enjoyed reading (in Wednesday's Connecting) about Spencer "Flash Davis." I am 67 now, and worked a combined 18 years with UPI and AP, the last 12 years with Los Angeles AP.

A friend of Joe Galloway, I left AP/LA in 1998 to be editor at a daily but retain my friends and associations with AP.

Military connections remained a kind of specialty, my alumni being Army paratroopers. I embedded in Iraq and one of AP/LA's alumni during the invasion was a young Marine Lt., Jeffrey Wong, who is now a lieutenant colonel and battalion commander, USMCR.

A WWII Navy photographer's daughter gifted me a signed print of Joe Rosenthal's photo of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima, and it's in a place of pride at my medical group where I'm one of the two clinical therapists with specialty in veterans mental health.

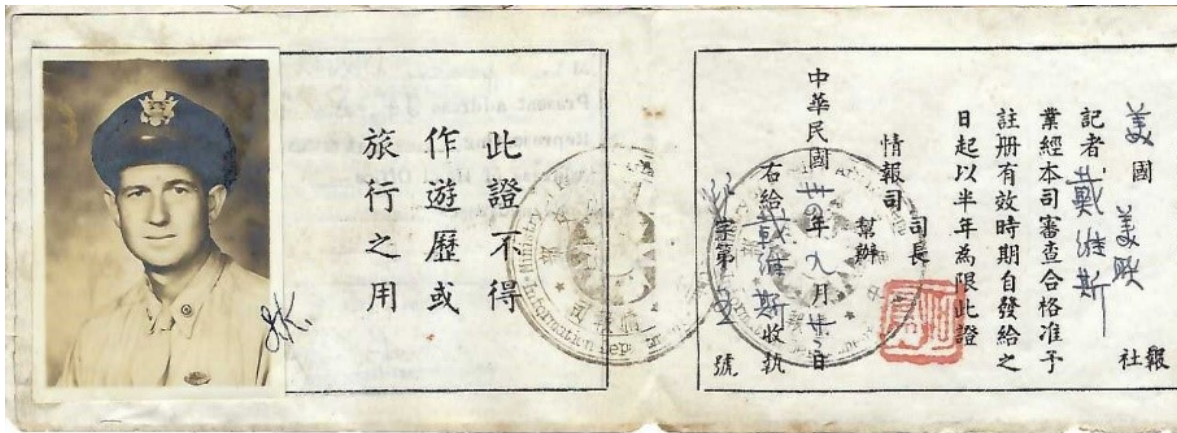
Flash Davis's story resonates with me because I had elder friends, all deceased now, who also went ashore along with Gen. MacArthur at Leyte.

One was Felix Jamison, whose 100th birthday I covered around Christmas 2016 at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles attended by Rep. Maxine Waters. Jamison, African-American, was a Master Sergeant, and I believe him when he shared he drove 1st Army truck ashore upon MacArthur's return. Army transportation was among the assignments open for African-Americans in the still-segregated Army.

Mr. Jamison, who worked for decades at Los Angeles Unified School District, passed shortly after that big family birthday party, but it was a beauty.

My "vet card" and "press card" got me a place at that table.

I would have to rummage the digital files for that story but Flash Davis's story brought it back. There have been many on our history's stage. It all juxtaposed nicely with the Thomas Jefferson entry.



EDITOR'S NOTE: Click [here](#) for Parts 2 and 3 of the story on Davis from the U.S.-Philippines Society web site. You will find them by scrolling down through Part 1. Thanks to Arnold Zeitlin for sharing.

Connecting mailbox

Homage to printed word. No computer screen in sight



Auburn University journalism professor emeritus Ed Williams ([Email](#)) says he's gotten nearly 150 Facebook likes and 40 comments over his newsprint mask. Not to mention smiles in the grocery store.

Williams says the mask was made by Ronda Churchill, a photojournalist e-friend out West.

If you are looking to purchase one, Ronda says to shoot her a message at - Rkchurchill@aol.com

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Remembering favorite restaurants

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - During my 28-year AP career I feel like I have eaten in a million restaurants, but the two that stand out were a Chinese restaurant in New York's Times Square and Paoletti's in Columbus, Ohio.

When I was about five, my parents took me to a Chinese restaurant on New York City's Times Square to watch the Macy's Christmas parade. (That's the way to watch it!)

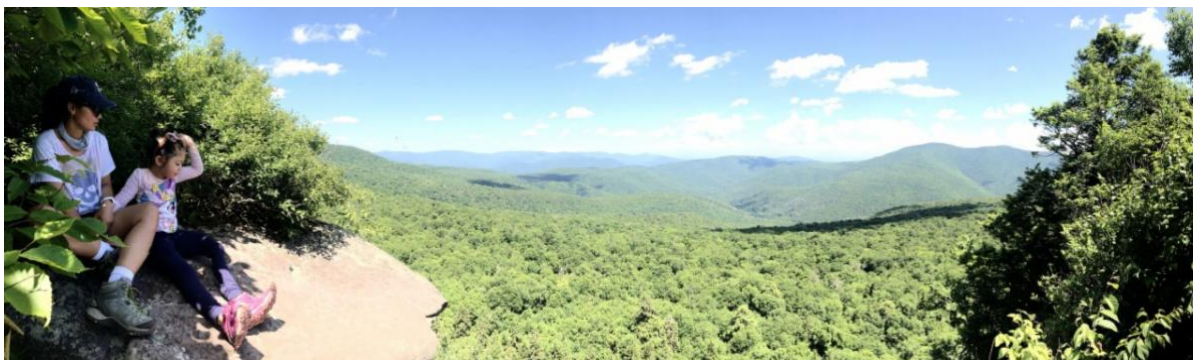
Later, when I was 16, and working for AP as an office boy. My hours were 12-midnight to 8 A.M. (My pay was 50 cents per hour), six days per week.

Getting off in the morning, I would go just two doors down 3rd St., to Paoletti's and get some breakfast, usually two doughnuts and a cup of coffee, and then walk, very rapidly, across the state capitol grounds, across the Scioto River, to Central High School (Lovingly named Sing-Sing on the Scioto).. After school, I would catch a streetcar to near my home. Then I would repeat that routine.

Paoletti's was a rather high-class restaurant in the evening. Their food was excellent. The restaurant started in 1922 and closed in 1972 – a 50-year stint. Fond memories.

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Connecting sky shot – near Shandaken, New York



Lilibeth and Zoe Thompson enjoy the view from Giant Ledge in the Slide Mountain Wilderness Preserve near Shandaken, NY on July 4, 2020. With an elevation of 3,200 feet it provides an excellent view South over Woodland Valley and the surrounding Catskills. (AP Photo/Sean Thompson)

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Suited up for hospital story



AP Photographer Rahmat Gul, left, video journalist Ahmad Seir Nassiri, center, and newperson Tameem Akhgar pose for a photo outside a hospital in Kabul, Afghanistan, June 30, 2020. (AP Photo/Ahmad Nazar)

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Bruce Richardson - berichnj@aol.com

Carol Robinson - vacarolr@msn.com

Paul Simon - paul4123@comcast.net

Stories of interest

Goodbye to the Hometown Paper (Washington Post Magazine)

By Margaret Sullivan

In the summer of 2019, with a certain amount of trepidation, I attended a party at the Buffalo News, the daily newspaper serving my hometown of Buffalo and the surrounding region. It would be the first time I'd been back in the building since I'd stepped down as editor in 2012 to become the public editor of the New York Times. When I arrived, I found a festive scene. Cocktails and oysters were being served on a balcony overlooking the Lake Erie harbor and the new construction at the city's Canalside development, which houses shops, restaurants and, in winter, a skating rink near the arena where the Buffalo Sabres play their National Hockey League games.

Buffalo, once the eighth-largest city in the United States, fell on hard times when its steel and auto plants hit the skids in the 1980s. But in recent years, it has bounced back economically and has become an unlikely darling of tourism roundups of coolest cities to visit. It landed on a list of "best places for millennials to settle," and my son, a young public defender, heard the call. He lives in a rehabbed industrial building downtown, where the high ceilings and low rents are the envy of his coastal friends.

Buffalo's comeback, however, is not the News's. The celebratory atmosphere I encountered at that summer party masked a far grimmer reality inside the building, where, as I'd feared, the changes were breathtaking. Home to a thousand employees not so long ago, the company now employed fewer than half that. Chatting with my former colleagues on the executive committee and others in the know, I heard nothing encouraging. These conversations left me with the depressing sense that the paper, even if it endured, would be vastly changed over the next five years. Its staff would probably continue to shrink, and it might eventually publish a print edition on Sundays only, if at all.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Harry Dunphy.

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Executive turmoil at Essence, Ebony magazines prompt changes

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — Two storied magazines that focus on news and culture in the Black community, Essence and Ebony, are in the midst of turmoil at their top levels.

Ebony late last week forced out CEO Willard Jackson following an initial inquiry into some of his financial transactions. The general interest magazine, which focuses on news and culture about African American life, celebrates its 75th anniversary later this year.

Essence, a magazine geared to women, was hit by an anonymous essay reportedly penned by former and current employees that alleged a toxic work environment and recently named an interim CEO.

Read more [here](#) .

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Uncovering Japan's coronavirus X-factor matters to the world (Nikkei Asian Review)

By Shinya Yamanaka

KYOTO -- Over the last six months in the global fight against the coronavirus pandemic, one recurring question that many outside Japan have been asking is how the country has managed to avoid a major outbreak.

Japan is a country of crowded cities. Geographically, it is close to China, the epicenter of the initial outbreak. Chinese tourists love Japan, which also has an aging population, a problem recognized around the world. The country had seemed primed to suffer a far greater outbreak of the virus, which is known to affect the elderly disproportionately.

Such fears were also fueled by the government's seemingly soft approach, compared with harsher lockdowns elsewhere in the world.

Read more [here](#) . Shared by Kazuo Abiko.

Today in History - July 9, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 9, the 191st day of 2020. There are 175 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 9, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read aloud to Gen. George Washington's troops in New York.

On this date:

In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded as his troops suffered a massive defeat during the French and Indian War (he died four days later).

In 1816, Argentina declared independence from Spain.

In 1850, the 12th president of the United States, Zachary Taylor, died after serving only 16 months of his term. (He was succeeded by Millard Fillmore.)

In 1918, 101 people were killed in a train collision in Nashville, Tennessee. The Distinguished Service Cross was established by an Act of Congress.

In 1937, a fire at 20th Century Fox's film storage facility in Little Ferry, New Jersey, destroyed most of the studio's silent films.

In 1943, during World War II, the Allies launched Operation Husky, the invasion of Sicily.

In 1947, the engagement of Britain's Princess Elizabeth to Lt. Philip Mountbatten was announced.

In 1965, the Sonny & Cher single "I Got You Babe" was released by ATCO Records.

In 1974, former U.S. Chief Justice Earl Warren died in Washington at age 83.

In 1982, Pan Am Flight 759, a Boeing 727, crashed in Kenner, Louisiana, shortly after takeoff from New Orleans International Airport, killing all 145 people aboard and eight people on the ground.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton tapped Tennessee Sen. Al Gore to be his running mate. Former CBS News commentator Eric Sevareid died in Washington at age 79.

In 2004, a Senate Intelligence Committee report concluded the CIA had provided unfounded assessments of the threat posed by Iraq that the Bush administration had relied on to justify going to war.

Ten years ago: The largest U.S.-Russia spy swap since the Cold War took place on a remote stretch of Vienna airport tarmac as planes from New York and Moscow arrived within minutes of each other with 10 Russian sleeper agents and four prisoners accused by Russia of spying for the West.

Five years ago: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley relegated the Confederate flag to the state's "relic room" after the legislature passed a measure removing the flag from the grounds of the Statehouse in the wake of the slaughter of nine African-Americans at a church Bible study. The Obama administration said hackers had stolen Social Security numbers, health histories and other highly sensitive data from more than 21 million people, acknowledging that the breach of U.S. government computer systems was far more severe than previously disclosed. Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud al-Faisal, who had been the world's longest-serving foreign minister with 40 years in the post until his retirement earlier in the year, died at age 75.

One year ago: Billionaire H. Ross Perot, who ran for president as a third-party candidate in 1992, died at his home in Dallas; he was 89. A federal appeals court said President Donald Trump was violating the First Amendment any time he blocked a critic on Twitter to silence a viewpoint; the court warned that any elected official who uses social media for "all manner of official purposes" can't then exclude critics without violating free-speech protections. Actor Rip Torn, an Emmy winner for "The Larry Sanders Show," died at 88. The American League won its seventh straight baseball All-Star Game, 4-3 over the National League, as American League pitchers combined to strike out 16 batters.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Ed Ames is 93. Former Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is 88. Actor James Hampton is 84. Actor Richard Roundtree is 78. Singer Dee Dee Kenniebrew (The Crystals) is 75. Author Dean Koontz is 75. Football Hall of Famer O.J. Simpson is 73. Actor Chris Cooper is 69. TV personality John Tesh is 68. Country singer David Ball is 67. Business executive/TV personality Kevin O'Leary (TV: "Shark Tank") is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Debbie Sledge (Sister Sledge) is 66. Actor Jimmy Smits is 65. Actress Lisa Banes is 65. Actor Tom Hanks is 64. Singer Marc Almond is 63. Actress Kelly McGillis is 63. Rock singer Jim Kerr (Simple Minds) is 61. Actress-rock

singer Courtney Love is 56. Rock musician Frank Bello (Anthrax) is 55. Actor David O'Hara is 55. Actress Pamela Adlon is 54. Rock musician Xavier Muriel is 52. Actor Scott Grimes is 49. Actor Enrique Murciano is 47. Rock singer-musician Isaac Brock (Modest Mouse) is 45. Musician/producer Jack White is 45. Rock musician Dan Estrin (Hoobastank) is 44. Actor-director Fred Savage is 44. Country musician Pat Allingham is 42. Actress Linda Park is 42. Actress Megan Parlen is 40. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kiely Williams (3lw) is 34. Actor Mitchel (cq) Musso is 29. Actress Georgie Henley is 25.

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

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