

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



## Connecting August 18, 2020

Click [here](#) for sound of the Teletype



[Top AP News](#)  
[Top AP Photos](#)

[Connecting Archive](#)  
[AP Emergency Relief Fund](#)  
[AP Books](#)

Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of August 2020,

A century ago today, an AP bulletin moved just after 1 p.m. on Aug. 18, 1920, conveying news that the 19th Amendment had been ratified giving women the constitutional right to vote. The AP had been covering the slow progress toward suffrage around the country as state after state ratified the amendment in 1920, culminating with Tennessee's approval that put it past the threshold to become law.

We lead today's issue with a story on that eventful day.

The Democratic National Convention began last night, brought to viewers virtually with COVID-19 necessitating the change from an in-person convention, and we bring you first responses from colleagues who recall covering conventions in years past. Share your own story with your colleagues.

**How To Vote In The 2020 Election** – that's the headline for a state by state guide to voting in the age of COVID-19 that was spotted by our colleague **Larry Blasko**. I think it's worth a share with the group, so click [here](#) to view.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## How the AP covered ratification of the 19th Amendment



In this circa 1913 photo made available by the Library of Congress, demonstrators march in a women's suffrage parade near the Capitol building in Washington. A horse and cart pulls a sign which reads, "We demand an amendment to the constitution of the United States enfranchising the women of this country." (Harris & Ewing/Library of Congress via AP)



In this circa 1911 photo made available by the Library of Congress, men look at materials posted in the window of the National Anti-Suffrage Association headquarters in the United States. (Harris & Ewing/Library of Congress via AP)



**FILE - In this September 1916 file photo, demonstrators hold a rally for women's suffrage in New York. The Seneca Falls convention in 1848 is widely viewed as the launch of the women's suffrage movement, yet women didn't gain the right to vote until ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920. (AP Photo/File)**

**By The Associated Press**

The bulletin moved just after 1 p.m. on Aug. 18, 1920, conveying the breaking news that the 19th Amendment had been ratified giving women the constitutional right to vote.

The AP had been covering the slow progress toward suffrage around the country as state after state ratified the amendment in 1920, culminating with Tennessee's approval that put it past the threshold to become law.

The initial AP wire dispatches that day included jubilant reaction from around the country, including telegrams of congratulations from White House cabinet secretaries to the Tennessee governor.

The AP also quoted Maud Wood Park, chairwoman of the National League of Woman Voters, who declared: “Our slogan is ‘Every woman a voter’ in 1920.”

As ratification of the amendment became more likely, the AP also sent newspaper subscribers an analysis in advance that was embargoed until after the measure passed. Here is that original story from 1920:

Ratification of the suffrage amendment to the Constitution ends a struggle which began in this country before the Colonies declared their independence. It will eventually enfranchise 25,000,000 women.

Read more [here](#).

## Your memories of covering national political conventions

**Mike Holmes** ([Email](#)) - I covered several national political conventions, and truthfully found that they pretty much confirmed my longstanding belief that "Big Deals" are seldom big news. Too scripted, too predictable, too many puffed up politicians giving long-winded speeches.

But as an AP regional reporter covering a state delegation, you could find some fun sidebars. One of my favorites was with the Texas Republicans in Houston in 1992. The Texas and North Carolina delegations had challenged one another to a barbecue cookoff. Each state brought their best barbecue cook. The North Carolina guy produced pulled pork, while a Texan from Amarillo filled his smoker with — what else? — beef brisket.

At high noon, the two delegations met for a showdown lunch. Each sampled the other's barbecue. One Texan I interviewed was trying a pulled pork sandwich, and I asked what he thought. "Well," he replied, "it's good. It's not barbecue, but it's good."

(As an added benefit from that story, interviewing the Texas cook got me the recipe I use to this day when smoking brisket.)

**Carl P. Leubsdorf ([Email](#))** - As my longtime colleague and friend Walter Mears noted in Monday's [Connecting](#), the 1968 Democratic Convention was "unforgettable but not a favorite convention." It was the second of the 26 conventions I have covered as reporter and columnist, and I still remember some of the ways it challenged my still developing skills as a reporter. It was also one of the last conventions where there was some doubt about the nominee going into the convention, though the nomination of Hubert Humphrey took only one ballot, as have all of them since 1952. I was covering a rules fight which, though not realized at the time, was to have long-term consequences because it laid the basis for the McGovern Commission that reformed the nominating process. (It also created a career-long expertise in the nominating mechanics, which has proved useful since the Democrats tend to revise their procedures regularly between every convention, most recently in 2017.)

The 1972 Democratic convention, which I covered for the AP, was more fun though nearly as chaotic as the one four years earlier, because the reform rules so weakened the control of party officials that sessions ran well past midnight, including McGovern's acceptance speech. (Until he died, the former South Dakota senator insisted that, had he been able to speak earlier, he might have won that election, even though he suffered one of the worst defeats in history, carrying but one state and Washington, DC.) I had a hunch that he would pick Sen. Thomas Eagleton as his running mate and, as a result, got a scoop of maybe two minutes when that happened. Of course, that turned out badly when the senator was forced to resign from the ticket because he had concealed his history of hospitalizations for depression.

The 1984 conventions were memorable for two reasons. They were my first as Washington Bureau Chief of The Dallas Morning News, and the GOP session was in Dallas, enabling us to show off the progress the paper had made but with the added pressure that everyone would be reading us. I was able to talk the Democratic nominee, Walter Mondale, into an interview on the eve of the GOP convention, which made the paper look good and enabled me to miss a picnic at which a number of participants got sick. The Democratic convention was notable for the nomination of Rep. Geraldine Ferraro, the first female VP nominee, which put all of the delegates in a positive mood. But as an old friend told me on the way out, in about a week "reality will return," and it did; that ticket also lost 49 states.

One thing I recall from the 1996 Democratic Convention in Chicago was the many times the delegates started singing "The Macarena," a big hit of the time. Their mood was emblematic of the optimism in a year when Bill Clinton's reelection was a near certainty.



Finally, a footnote: my first convention was actually in 1956 when, thanks to a college friendship, I got to sit in on the opening session of the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. We were in the back of the hall and subsequently decided we could see more on TV. That will certainly be true this week.

-0-

**Larry Margasak ([Email](#))** - This is one of my favorites, an idea sparked by a balloon disaster at the earlier Democratic convention.

## Republican Balloon Man Has No Fears

**LARRY MARGASAK**  
**September 1, 2004**

NEW YORK (AP) \_ The Republicans' balloon and confetti guy has no fear the GOP convention will end like the Democratic one: when CNN viewers heard a producer shout ``Go balloons," followed by: ``I don't see anything happening."

Treb Heining said his balloon nets always open. It will take five seconds for workers to pull a string to release the latex balloons. In 20 more seconds, the balloons will be on the ground or in delegates' hands, he promised.

"I'm not going to feel any more nervous than normally in doing something for the president of the United States," said Heining, who has handled Republican balloon drops since 1988.

The 120,000 balloons were inflated Aug. 27, and they'll be dropped Thursday night when President Bush finishes his acceptance speech.

"In a balloon drop, there are two things that can happen," Heining said in an interview. ``They fall or they don't."

Getting it to work is not so simple, said Heining, whose company is based in Newport Beach, Calif. There's a practice drop to measure Madison Square Garden's wind currents. He must coordinate the balloon drop with confetti blown from four ceiling locations.

The balloon drop is not high-tech. Workers in ceiling perches pull a string hand-over-hand to release the balloons from the net.

But quick decisions are required while the president is on stage, so the balloons and confetti don't blur sightlines for still photographers and television cameras.

"You try to create a picture for print media and drama for the TV audience. It's in the timing. You have to make split-second decisions," Heining said.

"It's my job to make the candidate look good and send him off with a goose bump effect."

In Boston, with John Kerry on stage accepting the convention's adulation, producer Don Mischer's voice went out over CNN as many balloons failed to fall.

Minutes after the place was supposed to be a blizzard of balloons and confetti, Mischer was still shouting that it wasn't happening, at least not correctly. Viewers saw a lot of balloons, and Kerry, family members and delegates batted them around. But nothing like the 100,000 that were supposed to cascade down.

-0-

**Dan Sewell ([Email](#))** - As much as they were scripted, it seemed conventions always produced some surprise moments. One of the most dramatic for me was the 1996 DNC in Chicago, for incumbent Bill Clinton's re-nomination. I was sitting among the Mississippi delegation doing interviews for story on Black voter support for Clinton when we got a special guest.

Mamie Till, the mother of Emmett Till, the Chicago youth murdered in Mississippi while visiting relatives in 1955, sat down in the delegation.

Many delegates were very moved by her presence: she was remembered for insisting that Emmett's casket remain open so people could see how he had been brutalized in a notorious case credited with helping galvanize the civil rights movement.



I had done a 40-years-later story in Mississippi on the case the year before, so I was able to quickly put together a complete story on her visit.

A strange convention-related experience came in 1992. After covering President George H.W. Bush's second nomination in the Houston Astrodome, I took a couple days off for a mini-vacation to see Galveston: seafood and reading books on the beach before returning to a empty home because everyone else was visiting relatives.

I arrived at the Miami airport late Saturday. When I passed by a gas station, I was surprised by a long line of cars.

I then stopped at the grocery to replenish my empty refrigerator and was stunned to see many shelves were bare.

It finally dawned on me that an Atlantic tropical storm I had seen a brief AP story on while I was in Houston had strengthened into a hurricane bearing down on us. I spent most of the next few weeks covering Hurricane Andrew.

## **Your memories of your first or favorite vehicle**



**Cindy Saul ([Email](#))** - My first car was a 1960 Volkswagen Beetle which I purchased for \$795.00 (borrowed from my Dad) at the dealership in Ames, fall at Iowa State in 1969. I needed a car for work, and my boss at the Country Club had his guys at the Volkswagen garage find it for me. I loved my Bug.

Years later in 1974, it was a dark and stormy night as she made a last ascent on Black Mountain into Asheville, NC. I was alone and really scared as I wheeled her to the side of the highway. No cell (service.), of course. But, as Good Samaritans do, it didn't take long for a nice woman to stop and offer to send a tow from Asheville. It cost \$35.00 to tow the car and take me home. The driver took the Bug off my hands. I finished my undergraduate degree at UNC-Asheville. I had paid my Dad back. I loved that Bug. And that's what I remember about that.



**Karol Stonger ([Email](#))** - My first and only car was a 1964 black VW Beetle purchased shortly after I graduated college and started work at AP in Indianapolis. A long-time friend took me to the dealer in Kokomo, my hometown about 50 miles north of Indy. It was late evening and with keys in hand, he drove to a nearby school parking lot. There, I got behind the wheel and acquainted myself with the ignition, the wipers, the headlights, the turn signal. Then I froze. I had never driven a stick shift. A half-hour's practice later, I drove him back to his car and I pulled onto US 31 South to Indianapolis. The middle of Indiana is fairly flat, but I prayed for every red light to turn green before I got there. Yeah, I stalled a few times, but the highway was four lanes so cars could pass. Rush-hour traffic the next morning wasn't so rushed for those behind me. But I soon got the hang of it and drove that little black Beetle until I was transferred to New York in 1967.

## Connecting mailbox

***On USPS and removal of sorting machines***

**Joe Galu (Email)** - I've read and heard lots about the USPS and the removal of sorting machines, but my local papers and TV and radio stations do not say a word about what is going on at the one place in my whole region where mail is sorted.

Reports say high-speed sorting machines have been removed. Some suggest the machines were dumped in landfills, while others hint that they were dismantled or damaged or destroyed before they were dumped, but there is nothing definitive.

I've seen endless superficial reporting on this whole story from beginning to end.

I keep a close eye on what arrives in my mailbox. I get eight utility bills each month, (I own three rental properties) and all eight arrived right on time. I have notoriously fine postal service in the Albany NY area. It appears that my mail service is unaffected, but I have no idea if my local postal workers are working harder than ever or if the machinery is still in place.

I asked the dominant local paper about the sorting machinery, but there has been no response.

-0-

## ***Can you spot this clunker?***

**Dennis Whitehead (Email)** - Here are two sentences from the AP story on (last) Tuesday night's MLS Is Back tournament finale between Orlando and Portland. As a good number of Connecting readers either play(ed) the game, along with the zebras in the mix, here's a test for soccer readers - see if you can spot the clunker.

"Nani worked the ball down the left side following a turnover and created enough room to get a crosser into the box. Mauricio Pereyra got a foot on the ball and then took advantage of a fallen defender to tie the match."

(The clunker is the word "crosser" as there is no such word in the soccer lexicon. Something along the lines of "created enough room to get a cross into the box" / "crossed the ball to an awaiting Pereyra" would hit the ball on the

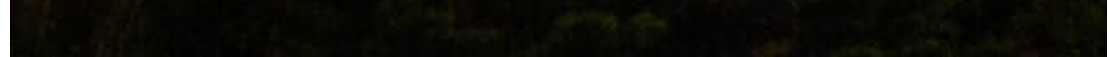
nose. Also, getting "a foot on the ball" ain't great but it remains inside the lines (out of touch).)

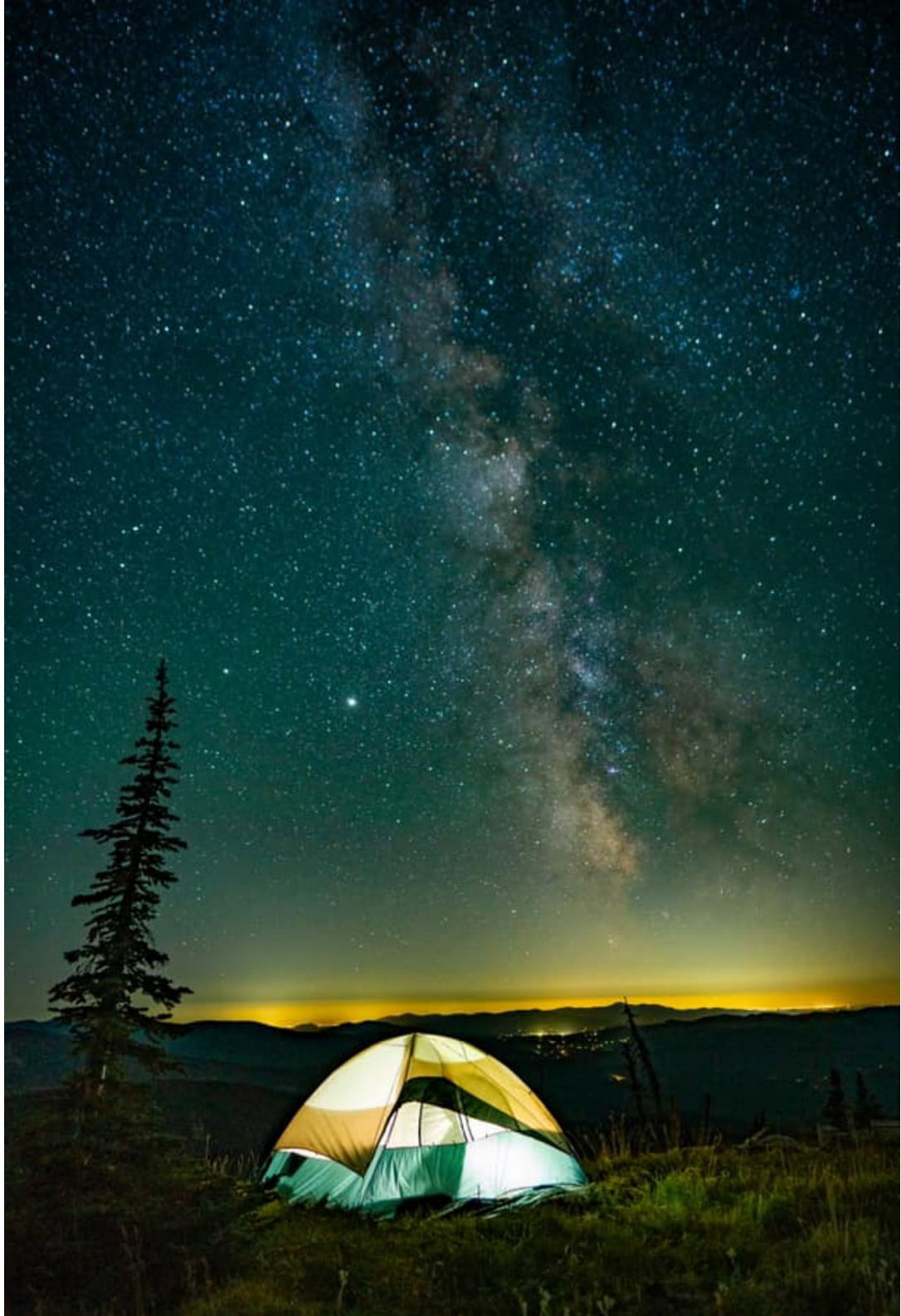
# Connecting sky shots - Northern Idaho











**Ali Stevens (Email)** - I attended my first photography workshop that took us to Northern Idaho, known to have remarkable views of the Milky Way, and here are two of the images I captured. The closest town is Coolin, Idaho. I haven't been behind a camera in over 10 years so figure why not start with something real simple that I like - an epic fire tower, Milky Way, meteor shower, capturing a galaxy and drone light painting!!! You know just some basic amateur stuff! (LOL)

My camera was a Sony Alpha a7R II Mirrorless Digital Camera with 24mm lens. (Settings: 15-second exposure, f1.7, ISO2500.) In the top photo is an active fire lookout tower used to spot forest fires in the area and the circle above it is a drone flying with lume cubes (photography lights.) It's called "light painting." The second photo shows the tent where we camped for the workshop, right next to the fire lookout tower and with an incredible view of the Milky Way.

## We've been here before

**Wayne Slater (Email)** - A piece I wrote has been published in the on-line magazine The Experiment. I wanted to call your attention to it. I worked for the AP from 1973-1984 (Charleston, Topeka, Peoria and Denver) and cite some AP experiences.



**We've been here before**

**However crazy – and things are crazy – I keep seeing history repeat itself.**

My old friend Wayne Slater is the former senior political writer for The Dallas Morning News and co-author of [\*\*Bush's Brain: How Karl Rove Made George W. Bush Presidential\*\*](#). He now lives in a vineyard in Florence, a small town north of Austin.

**By Wayne Slater**

As a long-time journalist and author watching our fractious politics and tribal divide, I cannot escape the idea that we've seen this movie before. However crazy – and things are crazy – I keep seeing history repeat itself.

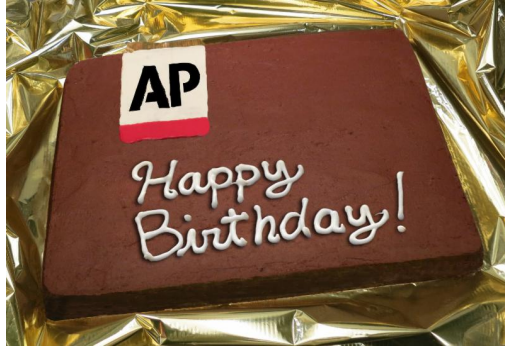
The controversy over the Washington Redskins, for example. Critics have long denounced the name as racist. Fans vowed never to change it. Passions ensued. In the end, they're changing it. Whatever the new name – the Washington Presidents, the Washington Dentures, whatever – it's a storyline I'm familiar with.

Take the Pekin Chinks. Before joining The Dallas Morning News, I worked for the Associated Press in Illinois and was dispatched to cover a looming apocalypse – the day the school board decided to change a high school mascot long known as the Pekin Chinks.

Pekin is small town southwest of Peoria. Somewhere in the hoary past, local boosters thought it was a good idea to promote the town as an anglicized version of Peking (Beijing). The high school mascot was born: the Chink. Each year, a male and female student were picked, Chink and Chinkette. At home games, as the band played ersatz Chinese music, corn-fed Midwestern children dressed in red silk jackets and coolie hats would shuffle to the center of the basketball floor with their arms folded and bow before the visiting team's representative. When the basketball team won the state championship in the 1960s, the city council issued a resolution declaring it "Chinks Week."

Read more [here](#).

**Connecting wishes Happy Birthday**



To

Tom Eblen - [tomeblen@gmail.com](mailto:tomeblen@gmail.com)

Tori Ekstrand - [ekstrandbg@gmail.com](mailto:ekstrandbg@gmail.com)

## Stories of interest

***An inland hurricane tore through Iowa. You probably didn't hear about it.*** (Washington Post)

By Lyz Lenz

*Lyz Lenz, a columnist for the Cedar Rapids Gazette, is the author of "God Land: A Story of Faith, Loss, and Renewal in Middle America" and "Belabored: A Vindication of the Rights of Pregnant Women."*

On Monday (August 10), Iowa was leveled by what amounted to a level-two hurricane. But you wouldn't know that from reading, listening to or watching the news.

While the storm did garner some coverage, mostly via wire stories, its impact remains underreported days later. The dispatches, focused on crop damage and electrical outages, have been shouted down by the coverage of the veepstakes and the fate of college football. Conservatives' consternation over the new Cardi B single has gotten more attention than the Iowans left without

power or food for what may be weeks. And all this, as the pandemic continues to wreak havoc throughout the state.

Iowa's last disaster, breathlessly covered by the media, was the caucuses. After that, everyone moved out. The dearth of coverage means we are struggling here, and no one knows.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Mark Mittelstadt.

-0-

## ***NBA Strips Photographer's Credentials Over Offensive Kamala Harris Post*** (PetaPixel)

A freelance photographer who has been working with the NBA for several years has been kicked out of the league's Orlando "bubble" after he was called out for re-sharing an offensive meme about Joe Biden's running mate Kamala Harris on his Facebook page.

The incident took place a couple of days ago, when freelancer Bill Baptist posted an offensive meme that takes aim at US Senator and presumptive Vice Presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Biden announced Harris as his running mate earlier this week, and the offensive graphic—which reads “Joe and the Hoe”—had been spreading on social media ever since.

That's where Baptist found it and chose to share it to his own FB page, where it was spotted and called out by former WNBA star Sheryl Swoopes.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Doug Pizac.

-0-

## ***Two sites that amplify hoaxes given special treatment at Trump's briefings despite restrictions*** (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi



The White House press corps just got a little more Trump-friendly, thanks to a bit of maneuvering by the White House itself.

Representatives of the Gateway Pundit and Epoch Times — two outlets with a conspiratorial bent and a long record of editorial support for President Trump — were admitted to the White House briefing room this week. Trump called on both of them to ask questions during his televised news conferences.

Under normal circumstances, this might not amount to much, given the dozens of reporters who pack into the briefing room. But starting in March, the coronavirus pandemic prompted strict limits on the number of reporters who can attend each briefing.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Carol Ann Riha.

## Today in History - August 18, 2020



**By The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 18, the 231st day of 2020. There are 135 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

### **On this date:**

In 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1846, during the Mexican-American War, U.S. forces led by Gen. Stephen W. Kearny occupied Santa Fe in present-day New Mexico.

In 1894, Congress established the Bureau of Immigration.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first Black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

In 1993, a judge in Sarasota, Fla., ruled that Kimberly Mays, the 14-year-old girl who had been switched at birth with another baby, need never again see her biological parents, Ernest and Regina Twigg, in accordance with her stated wishes. (However, Kimberly later moved in with the Twiggs.)

In 2009, former South Korean President and Nobel Peace laureate Kim Dae-jung (kih-m day-joong) died in Seoul.

In 2014, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis convulsed by protests over the fatal shooting of a Black teen. Don Pardo, 96, a durable radio and television announcer known for his introductions with a booming baritone on “Saturday Night Live” and other shows, died in Tucson, Arizona.

In 2017, Steve Bannon, President Donald Trump’s top White House strategist, was forced out of his post by Trump; Bannon returned immediately as executive chairman to Breitbart News, which he led before joining Trump’s campaign. (Bannon would step down as Breitbart chairman in January 2018 after the release of a book in which he criticized Trump and members of his family.)

Ten years ago: General Motors filed the first batch of paperwork to sell stock to the public again, a significant step toward shedding U.S. government ownership a year after the automaker had filed for bankruptcy. A bull leapt into the packed grandstands of a bullring in northern Spain and ran amok, charging and trampling spectators and leaving dozens of people injured. (The bull was brought under control by handlers and was later killed.)

Five years ago: The Food and Drug Administration approved Addyi (ADD’-ee), the world’s first prescription drug designed to boost sexual desire in women. Bud Yorkin, a director and producer who helped forge a new brand of topical TV comedy with the 1970s hit “All in the Family,” died in Los Angeles at age 89.

One year ago: Kathleen Blanco, who became Louisiana’s first female governor only to see her political career derailed by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, died in hospice care in Lafayette, Louisiana at the age of 76; she’d struggled for years with cancer. Broadcaster Jack Whitaker, who reported on events ranging from the first Super Bowl to Secretariat’s Triple Crown, died in Devon, Pennsylvania; he was 95.

Today’s Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn (ROH’-zuh-lihn) Carter is 93. Movie director Roman Polanski is 87. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 85. Actor-director Robert Redford is 84. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 78. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 75. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 70. Country singer Jamie O’Hara is 70. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 68. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 65. Actor Denis Leary is 63. Actor Madeleine Stowe is 62. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner (GYT’-nur) is 59. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 59. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 58. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 58. Actor Adam Storke is 58.

Actor Craig Bierko (BEER'-koh) is 56. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 52. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 51. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 51. Actor Christian Slater is 51. Actor Edward Norton is 51. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 50. Actor Kaitlin Olson is 45. Actor-writer-director Hadji is 44. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 44. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 42. Country musician Brad Tursi (Old Dominion) is 41. Actor Mika Boorem is 33. Actor Maia Mitchell is 27. Actor Madelaine Petsch is 26. Actor Parker McKenna Posey 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**

**Editor**, Connecting newsletter

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**