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Connecting
October 05, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 5th day of October 2020,

While our Connecting colleague **Jerry Pye** never worked for the AP, the newspapers he oversaw through nearly a half-century in the newspaper business were AP members.

Jerry and I met when he was the publisher at the Maryville Daily Forum in northwest Missouri and I was Kansas City bureau chief – and we've stayed in touch over the years. He recently retired as publisher of The Marshall (Texas) News Messenger for the past six and a half years, as well as publisher of The Panola Watchman and the Kilgore News Herald newspapers under the M. Roberts Media banner.

He's the subject of today's Monday profile.

The AP Elections Team is still looking for help with its election night tabulation operation. AP Elections has gone from physical to virtual vote entry centers because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Anyone interested in assisting - working from home, inputting votes into AP's election night reporting system from stringers and websites across the country – please contact our Connecting colleague **Peg**Coughlin at pcoughlin@ap.org These are paid positions.

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

Paul

Connecting profile Jerry Pye



How did you get into the newspaper business?

I started in the business as a paperboy and retired as a Regional Publisher.

On June 4, 1968, I walked in the door of the Ruston Daily Leader at 10:30 am and was back at 1 pm to start learning the paper route. I kept my bicycle at the paper and the building burned down taking my mode of transportation. I brought a Honda 90 to deliver the papers and the rest is history. The paper route later paid my way through college at Louisiana Tech University and at the time I was throwing 651 papers a day. Later, I became the Circulation Manager of the Ruston Daily Leader. Tom Kelly,

publisher of the Leader told me to increase circulation, so I did. It was a fun job and we had great success creating new delivery routes and paid subscriptions.

The first weekly that I ran was The Bienville Democrat in Arcadia, LA. Tom Kelly, president of the Enterprise Group, ask me if wanted to run a newspaper. I was so excited to be asked to run a newspaper that I said yes immediately and never asked any more questions, not even what the salary was for the position. I was young (28) and it was a dream to run a newspaper. A great learning experience running a weekly newspaper as you do everything in the operation, selling advertising, news, sports, taking photos, developing film and shooting PMTs in the darkroom, composing and page layout, addressing the mail using an old timely mailing machine, delivering the papers to the Post Office and the racks/stores. You get a better foundation in all aspect of the business than you do working for a daily. I also got a front seat to Louisiana politics played all year long in the state of Louisiana, both at a local and state level. Later I picked up three other weeklies and printing of the Barksdale Air Force Base newspaper, The Barksdale Observer. That was a serious fun gig working with the Air Force. One item was the time I was inside a KC-135 to see the Blue Angels refueling at 20,000 feet preparing for the Barksdale Air Show held in May of each year at the time.

The first daily was *The Maryville Daily Forum* in Maryville, Missouri.

I published papers in Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois, Nevada, Wyoming and Texas, but spent most of my career in my home state of Louisiana. A lot of my time was spent troubleshooting - turning newspapers around for the communities that we have served. Scott Champion with Liberty Group Publishing sent me to several papers. The company later became the first acquisition by Gatehouse Media. Some of these included The Bastrop Daily Enterprise in Bastrop, LA, The Elko Free Press in Elko, NV, The Freeport Journal Standard in Freeport, IL, back to Louisiana as Louisiana Regional Manager over nine locations and 22 publications, based out of Bastrop, LA. I became the Associate Publisher of The Buffalo Bulletin in Buffalo, WY. Pretty country and a fun place to work. I loved going to the mountains shooting pictures of the wildlife (eagles, elk, moose) and the mountains, but in my heart I wanted to get back the South near our kids.

I spent a short time in Brownwood, TX (Gatehouse was planning to buy them) before heading to Marshall where I ended my career. The last two years, I have served on the Texas Press Association Board of Directors.

What were your biggest accomplishments in the business?

Turning around *The Maryville (MO) Daily Forum.* The paper was in bad shape when I got there in April 1995. Before we left, we had beaten the competition, put the paper back in the black, had a strong staff that cared about the community and won a General Excellence award in our division plus a number of other press awards. I served on the Northwest Missouri Press Association board working through the chairs to serve a term as president. Ruby and I loved Maryville and the people in the

community. We got to see Northwest Missouri State win its first and second Division II Football National Championships.

Rebuilding the Lincoln-Douglas Debate site in Freeport, IL. We took \$40,000 in cash given to the paper for a community project. It took us six months to come up with a solid idea that would benefit the community. Through a committee of three people we turned the \$40,000 into a total of \$262,000 in additional cash and in-kind donations to rebuild the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site. The paper designed the signage for the site through the pages of the *Freeport Journal-Standard* telling the impact on history of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site. The Freeport debate was the second debate of the seven between Lincoln and Douglas held during the 1858 U.S. Senate election and the one where Lincoln lost the U.S. Senate seat, but set the stage to win the Presidency in 1860. i.e. the Freeport Doctrine.



George Foreman and Jerry visit after the Marshall Chamber of Commerce annual banquet. (2018)

What's the biggest change you witnessed in the newspaper business?

Computers are the biggest change, followed by the Internet. Computers helped the industry and the Internet is destroying the revenue base of newspapers. It started with loss of classified revenue and moved to other revenue sources. I remember seeing Hot Type as a teenager and now we are doing everything by computer and the internet. We do our stories and ads on a computer, layout our pages, send the finished pages to pre-press to print the paper. When I started in the business, kids

were the primary way to deliver papers, now it is adults. Kids of today will never have the work experience of delivering papers as a first job.

I think that within 10 years, all but a few newspapers will be online viewed on our phones and other devices.

One of our keys to community newspaper success is having our footprint in both the print and digital world. In simple terms, digital first and print best. The great advantage that community newspaper have is that we cover the local news that you cannot get anywhere else.

Again, in simple terms, People, Faces and Places. People like to see their name in the paper; Faces - folks like to see their picture in the paper; and Places for that is what the what we do, cover the events and places of our community. This the key to our success.

What was the importance of AP to the newspapers you published?

AP was critical to our successful news coverage. AP's greatest value to us has been AP sports coverage and in the community newspapers, regional AP news coverage. Our local readers want to keep up with national and regional sports and clearly AP was an important part of our news plan. The national AP coverage for wire pages is also important - to complete our coverage from an national viewpoint. You (Paul Stevens) were the first AP bureau chief that I worked with and I learned the most from you. I always enjoyed visiting with you. In Texas, I enjoyed working with Barry Bedlan and Pam Collins in the AP Dallas office.

What is the most vivid memory of your publishing experience?

The strongest memory and most heartbreaking day in the news business was 9/11. The images of that day and what we did for news coverage for our readers are burned in my memory. I was in Bastrop, La., and I remember an AP story that could be downloaded under the old satellite system in 10 to 15 seconds would take 15 minutes as everyone was trying to download AP copy for the paper. It was all hands on deck when the second plane hit the World Trade Center. Plus, we also knew that President Bush had landed at Barksdale Air Force Base before he addressed the nation. I kept copies of the papers for my personal files.



Ruby and Jerry

What are your plans for retirement?

Ruby and I have been married 36 years and we have three children: Crystal Mathes, Karen Tubbs and Robert Pye, and four grandchildren: Ashlyn Mathes, Reed Mathes, Thomas Tubbs and Payton Tubbs. We plan to spend more time spoiling the grandkids and being part of the Marshall and Carthage, Texas, communities. Ruby and I both are active in each community serving on various boards, etc. Ruby and I will do some traveling and retirement will also give me more time for photography, fishing, house projects and gardening. I want to make note of Ruby's time on the Marshall Library Board of Director when she was president. She and Board took \$300,000 of private money and about \$335,000 in city funds and rebuilt the library from a 1970 era facility to a modern 21st facility serving the community. That is a nice legacy to leave for the city residents.

Jerry Pye's email is - jerrypye@gmail.com

Former AP, Baltimore Sun reporter Erika Niedowski dies at 46





Erika's partner Patrick Laverty posted these on Twitter

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP) — Erika Niedowski, a former journalist for The Associated Press and a Pulitzer Prize finalist for The Baltimore Sun, died Friday after a brief and sudden illness. She was 46.

Niedowski's longtime partner, Patrick Laverty, said she died after being hospitalized with flu-like symptoms that were not COVID-19-related.

Born Oct. 4, 1973, Niedowski grew up in Marshfield, Massachusetts, and held degrees from Georgetown and Tufts, where she earned a master's in public policy. She was an avid cyclist and ice hockey player whose "favorite season was hoodie season," Laverty said.

At AP, Niedowski was an acting correspondent and reporter in Providence from 2011-2014, anchoring coverage of the Rhode Island Statehouse. She also reported extensively on the homicide investigation of former New England Patriots tight end

Aaron Hernandez and the controversy around former Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling's failed 38 Studios video game venture.

"Erika reported the news the way she skated in the hockey rink: hard-charging and relentless," said William J. Kole, AP's New England editor. "She left an indelible impact not just on journalism but on the lives of everyone she touched."

Read more **here**. Shared by Lisa Pane, Bill Kole.

Webinar on how AP will count the vote

Nancy Nussbaum (<u>Email</u>) – The third session in AP's Definitive Source webinar series covered how AP will count the vote in November. Director of Elections Brian Holden and Global News Manager Shelley Acoca cover how voting and AP's vote count operation has evolved with the pandemic. The session also covered what AP's members and customers can expect Nov. 3 and the days after. AP will be advising and sharing information with customers on various channels. Where can customers go for results and answers?

Click here to view.

Your thoughts on AP style change on protests/riots

Hal Bock (<u>Email</u>) - Regarding ``riots'' there is an old saying/cliche. ``If it walks like a duck and if it quacks like a duck, why it's probably a duck."

-0-

Jim Carrier (Email) - Regarding "riot" - I would urge that the AP consider a "style" change when reporting on historical accounts, too.

This is more than a style question, however. It goes to the heart of accurate reporting of racial conflict, which informs public debate, police/military/militia response, and history.

For more than a century, "riot" has been used to describe white attacks on black communities. In Tulsa, OK; Rosewood, FL, and dozens of communities in the "Red Summer" of 1919, "race riot" was the common description in contemporary newspaper accounts, later repeated in historical accounts.

As I discovered in research for my book, "A Traveler's Guide to the Civil Rights Movement," these events, coming as the Jim Crowe era reached its lynching peak, were mostly targeted attacks on African Americans, black neighborhoods, black business districts and churches. Once attacked, some blacks fought back. But the overwhelming outcome was hundreds of black deaths, and, in some cases, an erasing of black existence. Wikipedia has a decent account of Red Summer.

In 2017, the Tulsa Race Riot Centennial Commission began planning for events to mark the 100th anniversary of the two-day 1921 Tulsa event which left an estimated 300 dead, the loss of 1,200 black homes, and destruction of a thriving black business district and black middle class. During the commission's planning, a petition signed by 1,600 people asked that the commission be renamed because "riot" was a coded word that perpetuated a lie.

The event is now officially called the Tulsa Race Massacre. I found <u>a good piece</u> on this change in the Tulsa World May 31 by Kendrick Marshall.

I still find contemporary references to historical "race riots" as reporters and op-ed writers try to place today's protests into context. But those references, repeated from archives, are inaccurate and need to be corrected before they are published.

-0-

Ed McCullough (Email) - Webster's New World College Dictionary, still (and for decades) the Stylebook's first reference for word usage, has separate definitions for riot, protest, unrest and other words now seemingly too fraught with historical, cultural baggage for AP reporters to continue to use. When in doubt, why not use Webster instead of attempting to redefine or substitute words that are inappropriate non synonyms? Perhaps reporters should simply report what they see, hear, are told or later ascertain. What words best describe shooting with an intent to commit murder, arson with an intent to produce destruction, vandalism and harassment with an intent to change the institutional order? The word "protest" is not in the First Amendment. "Assemble" is, preceded by "peaceably."

-0-

Guy Palmiotto (<u>Email</u>) - Sorry to see the AP diluting the definition of a riot. A riot is a violent disturbance participated by a group of individuals. What I have seen in cities such as Portland, New York and Seattle are riots. The destruction of private property and small businesses and the ensuing loss of jobs is not the result of protests. I am sure others are dismayed by the AP following a PC narrative.

-0-

Doug Pizac (<u>Email</u>) - I would like to know who decided to include violent acts as a new norm definition for the word protest. What was the reasoning and process?

"Protest" has always been a form of verbal disagreement while violence was the escalation marker to use the term "riot" in the decades I was with AP and by other media outlets. Verbal exchanges and the debating of ideologies has always been a higher level of intellect versus the low act of hurting people, defacing property, destroying homes and businesses, etc. One is intelligence, the other the lack of. So why the change to mix the two when both are very different?

When I first joined the AP-L.A. bureau on Figueroa Street in the '70s as a photo stringer there was an exchange of definitions that was burned into my mind and I use in my teachings today to emphasize the importance of "context" when it comes to different points of view.

Photographer Nick Ut was sent to the L.A. Mayor's office for a news conference. He came back excited with film canisters in hand telling photo editor Paul Harrington that he had GOOD protest pictures outside city hall. Instead of souping the film immediately, Paul sent Nick out to do a Bob Thomas celebrity interview photo shoot. Nick became very agitated, insisting that his film needed to be processed immediately but to no avail. While none of us could speak Vietnamese, I could tell by the tone of his voice they were most likely curse words as he walked out of the office to his Hollywood assignment.

While he was gone, a news-side story broke about a riot taking place outside city hall. What started out as a peaceful protest escalated into a brawl.

When Nick returned, Paul asked him what was on his still unprocessed film. Nick told him people were throwing bloody punches, signs were used as clubs, etc. Nick processed his film and several pictures were printed and transmitted immediately -- hours after the incident instead of minutes.

As things cooled down Paul asked Nick why he didn't say people were rioting versus using the word protest. Nick's answer was simple and educated all of us in the use of context. Based on Nick's life from the Vietnam War, he said a riot involved guns, tanks and people dying. What he photographed that morning was a simple protest to him - but with lots of good pictures.

That day changed my life in teaching me to understand the importance of other aspects of a subject or belief, and look at how people view things differently. It made me a better person.

Connecting mailbox

More stories of the Early

Mike Doan (<u>Email</u>) - After three months on the early in San Francisco, I went to a party at COB Paul Finch's house in 1970.. He challenged anyone on his staff to play chess with him. I took him up on it and we made wagers. I don't remember his, but mine was to take me off the early. You're on, he said. I am not a good chess player, but I was so motivated that I whipped him.

Did he take me off the early? No. Later, after a few months of daytime editing, I transferred to Washington, and I was sentenced to...you guessed it...the early.

-0-

A memorable day and image on campaign trail



Bob Daugherty (Email) - On July 31, 1979 I was assigned to accompany President Carter on a campaign trip to Louisville and on to a town hall in Bardstown, Ky. It was a routine (dull) day until we reached Bardstown. Carter was scheduled to drive through downtown. I and a couple of other photographers were on a flatbed truck to view the scene. The limousine started to move forward and stopped after just a few feet. The president emerged and walked to the front of the vehicle. He then climbed on the hood and finally, onto the roof. This was surprising, since he was not the most demonstrative person. The result was a photo that probably we will not be repeated, owing to security. The town hall was fine, but no one remembers. I posted the image on Facebook on Carter's 96th birthday last Friday. I was surprised at the reaction from scores of comments and reposts.

Lloyd Ballhagen dies – oversaw Harris group for 19 years

Lloyd W. Ballhagen, who oversaw operations of the Harris group in Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Colorado, Texas and California for 19 years, died Sept. 28 at Hospice House in Hutchinson, Kansas. The Marine Corps veteran who served in Japan and Korea was 89.

In 1958, Lloyd was the lone selection from 40 applicants by the Harris newspaper and radio station group as the second executive intern. After completing his four-year training in all departments of a newspaper, Lloyd became editor and publisher of The Spencer Daily Reporter and Sunday Times, located in Spencer, IA. After three years at Spencer, he served as editor and publisher for The Hays Daily News, after Harris Group bought the Hays Daily in 1970. During Lloyd's three years at Hays, he was appointed Assistant to the President of Harris Group, Peter Macdonald. He continued as Macdonald's assistant until he was named as President of Harris Enterprises, Inc. in 1978. The Harris Group Corporation then owned 11 daily newspapers, and six AM and seven FM radio



stations. Lloyd's title was changed to President and CEO in 1984, and to Chairman of the Board and CEO in 1992. Lloyd continued in that capacity until his retirement, at the end of 1997.

Click here for Hutchinson Post story on his death.

Best of the Week

AP exposes palm oil labor abuses linked to the world's top brands, major banks



AP Photo/Gemunu Amarasinghe

It started with a question.

While covering the Rohingya crisis, Minnesota-based investigative reporter Robin McDowell and Jakarta, Indonesia-based Margie Mason knew tens of thousands of refugees fleeing Myanmar were vulnerable to exploitation when they arrived in Malaysia. With a huge labor shortage in the palm oil sector, they wondered: Were desperate men being tricked or sold to help harvest fruit that ends up in the supply chains of some of America's most iconic food and cosmetic brands?

That initial question launched a story that involved hundreds of interviews, many of them with frightened workers conducted under fraught circumstances. Many of the workers spoke of brutal conditions including child labor, outright slavery and allegations of rape. McDowell and Mason worked for months with New York-based editor Kristin Gazlay to land the deeply reported story.

Read more here.

Best of the States

Planning, teamwork, fast filing lead to allformats wins on Breonna Taylor story



AP Photo/Darron Cummings

The weeks leading up to the decision on whether to charge police officers with the killing of Breonna Taylor left plenty of time for crucial coverage planning – planning that helped set AP up for huge wins in speed and play on one of the biggest stories in America.

Louisville reporter and video journalist Dylan Lovan wrote urgent prep for every likely scenario. With the announcement imminent, colleagues Bruce Schreiner and Becky Yonker helped monitor the grand jury decision and get the urgent on the wire. And when it became clear that one officer was charged with wanton endangerment, but no one was actually directly charged with Taylor's killing, South region staffers scrambled to get another alert out to clear up the confusion reigning on many news sites and TV channels.

Read more **here**.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



To

Diana Heidgerd – heidgerd@flash.net Gary Nyhus – coach24@gmail.com

Connecting '80s/'90s Club

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Connecting publishes this list quarterly. If you are qualified for one of the age groups and would like to be listed, drop me a note.)

90s:

Mercer Bailey
Albert Habhab
George Hanna
Gene Herrick
Sister Donalda Kehoe
Elaine Light
Sam Montello
Robert O'Meara
Seymour Topping
Sal Veder
Harold Waters

80s:

Norm Abelson Paul Albright Peter Arnett Harry Atkins Malcolm Barr Myron Belkind Lou Boccardi Hal Bock William Roy Bolch Jr.

Henry Bradsher

Ben Brown

Charles Bruce

Hal Buell

Harry Cabluck

Sibby Christensen

Shirley Christian

Mike Cochran

Eldon Cort

Frank Daniels Jr.

Don Dashiell

Bob Daugherty

Otto Doelling

Phil Dopoulos

John Eagan

Claude Erbsen

Mike Feinsilber

Steve Graham

Bob Greene

Chick Harrity

Lee Jones

Doug Kienitz

Dean Lee

Warren Lerude

Carl Leubsdorf

David Liu

Art Loomis

John Marlow

Dave Mazzarella

Joe McGowan

Walter Mears

Yvette Mercourt

Reid Miller

Charlie Monzella

Harry Moskos

Greg Nokes

Lyle Price

Bruce Richardson

Mike Rouse

Mike Short

Joe Somma

Arlon Southall

Ed Staats

Marty Thompson

Ron Thompson

Kernan Turner

Bob Walsh

Paul Webster

Jeff Williams

Joe Yeninas

Arnold Zeitlin Kent Zimmerman

Stories of interest

Three White House journalists test positive for coronavirus after closely covering Trump (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi

Journalists who work at the White House have been on high alert about the coronavirus since March, but the issue took on even greater urgency Friday with a mini-outbreak in the press room following President Trump's crowded events and his own positive test for the virus.

Three journalists, including New York Times correspondent Michael D. Shear, tested positive for the coronavirus on Friday, as did a White House staffer who works with the press. The new infections prompted another round of anxiety and cautionary notes among those who cover the president.

The White House Correspondents' Association urged its members to steer clear of the press room and the small warren of workspaces behind it inside the West Wing unless they have urgent business. In the first of several emails on Friday, the group's president, Zeke Miller of the Associated Press, asked journalists who don't have an enclosed office in the workspace and aren't part of the press pool — the rotating group of reporters that follows the president and shares its reporting with other reporters — to stay away from the White House altogether.

Read more **here**. Shared by Richard Chady, Dennis Conrad.

-0-

Hussman cites successes, expands digital distribution (News&Tech)

By MARC WILSON

Publisher Walter E. Hussman Jr. says his grand experiment is working.

"This could be the business model that saves community newspapers," Hussman told News & Tech in a recent phone interview.

Hussman has or is converting his daily newspaper group from mainly print to mostly digital and is so pleased with the results that he recently bought another Arkansas daily newspaper.

In a widely watched effort, Hussman's Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in Little Rock bought some \$13 million worth of iPads and gave them to readers who agreed to pay \$34 a month to subscribe to an electronically delivered replica e-edition six days a week. Since February, only the Sunday paper has been printed and delivered.

Hussman says the acceptance rate of the iPad for digital subscription has been about 85 percent in the 63 counties in which it circulates, with highest acceptance in Little Rock. (Hussman's Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette serves the state's 12 other counties.)

He said the digital model returned the Democrat-Gazette to profitability in March and April — but COVID-19 issues have blunted profits since then.

Read more here.

-0-

Documentary tries to prove existence of dead Lincoln photo

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The image is haunting, depicting a gaunt-faced man with a familiar beard, staring ahead lifelessly. The right eye is bulging and appears disfigured from an unseen wound.

Some experts believe the man is Abraham Lincoln, captured hours after the nation's beloved 16th president succumbed to an assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865, a heretofore unknown photo of incalculable emotional and historic value.

Others dismiss the mere possibility.

The original ambrotype image is locked away in an Illinois safe deposit box, the subject of court fights and accusations of robbery and, on Sunday, a Discovery network documentary that attempts to unravel the mystery behind it.

Read more here.

Today in History - October 05, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 5, the 279th day of 2020. There are 87 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 5, 2005, defying the White House, senators voted 90-9 to approve an amendment sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., that would prohibit the use of "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" against anyone in U.S. government custody. (A reluctant President George W. Bush later signed off on the amendment.)

On this date:

In 1892, the Dalton Gang, notorious for its train robberies, was practically wiped out while attempting to rob a pair of banks in Coffeyville, Kansas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman delivered the first televised White House address as he spoke on the world food crisis.

In 1953, Earl Warren was sworn in as the 14th chief justice of the United States, succeeding Fred M. Vinson.

In 1955, a stage adaptation of "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett opened at the Cort Theatre in New York.

In 1958, racially-desegregated Clinton High School in Clinton, Tennessee, was mostly leveled by an early morning bombing.

In 1983, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa (lek vah-WEN'-sah) was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1988, Democrat Lloyd Bentsen lambasted Republican Dan Quayle during their vice-presidential debate, telling Quayle, "Senator, you're no Jack Kennedy."

In 1989, a jury in Charlotte, North Carolina, convicted former P-T-L evangelist Jim Bakker (BAY'-kur) of using his television show to defraud followers.

In 2001, tabloid photo editor Robert Stevens died from inhaled anthrax, the first of a series of anthrax cases in Florida, New York, New Jersey and Washington.

In 2011, Apple founder Steve Jobs, 56, died in Palo Alto, California.

In 2017, Hollywood executive Harvey Weinstein announced that he was taking a leave of absence from his company after a New York Times article detailed decades of alleged sexual harassment against women including actor Ashley Judd.

In 2018, a jury in Chicago convicted white police officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder in the 2014 shooting of Black teenager Laquan McDonald.

Ten years ago: Faisal Shahzad (FY'-sul shah-ZAHD'), the Pakistani immigrant who'd tried to detonate a car bomb in Times Square, accepted a life sentence from a federal judge in New York with a smirk and warned that Americans could expect more bloodshed at the hands of Muslims. President Barack Obama convened the first-ever White House summit on community colleges, calling them the "unsung heroes of America's education system."

Five years ago: The United States, Japan and 10 other nations in Asia and the Americas reached agreement on the landmark Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal. The Coast Guard concluded that El Faro, a container ship that went missing during Hurricane Joaquin off the Bahamas, had sunk. Irish-born William Campbell, Satoshi Omura and of Japan and Tu Youyou of China won the Nobel Prize in medicine for discoveries that helped doctors fight malaria and infections caused by roundworm parasites.

One year ago: A Taliban official said a delegation from the group had met with a U.S. envoy in the Pakistani capital; it was the first such encounter since President Donald Trump announced a month earlier that a peace deal to end Afghanistan's 18-year war was dead. Iraqi protesters pressed on with anti-government rallies in the capital and across several provinces for a fifth day, setting government offices on fire; security agencies fatally shot 19 protesters and wounded more than three dozen.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Glynis Johns is 97. College Football Hall of Fame coach Barry Switzer is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Arlene Smith (The Chantels) is 79. Singer-musician Steve Miller is 77. Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-Md., is 77. Rock singer Brian Johnson (AC/DC) is 73. Blues musician Rick Estrin is 71. Actor Karen Allen is 69. Writer-producer-director Clive Barker is 68. Rock musician David Bryson (Counting Crows) is 66. Astrophysicist-author Neil deGrasse Tyson is 62. Memorial designer Maya Lin is 61. Actor Daniel Baldwin is 60. Rock singer-musician Dave Dederer is 56. Hockey Hall of

Famer Mario Lemieux is 55. Actor Guy Pearce is 53. Actor Josie Bissett is 50. Singer-actor Heather Headley is 46. Pop-rock singer Colin Meloy (The Decemberists) is 46. Rock musician Brian Mashburn (Save Ferris) is 45. Actor Parminder Nagra (pahr-MIHN'-da NAH'-grah) is 45. Actor Scott Weinger is 45. Actor Kate Winslet is 45. Rock musician James Valentine (Maroon 5) is 42. Rock musician Paul Thomas (Good Charlotte) is 40. Actor Jesse Eisenberg is 37. TV personality Nicky Hilton is 37. Actor Azure Parsons is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brooke Valentine is 35. Actor Kevin Bigley is 34. Actor Joshua Logan Moore is 26. Actor Jacob Tremblay is 14.

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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