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President-elect Joe Biden gestures to supporters Saturday, Nov. 7, 2020, in Wilmington, Del. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 9th day of November 2020,

The 2020 presidential election was called Saturday for former Vice President Joe Biden and today's issue brings you follow-up stories – as well as the thoughts of two of our colleagues who are former AP Washington chiefs of bureau: **Walter Mears** and **Sandy Johnson**.

We mourn the loss of a legend of journalism, **Seymour Topping**, a foreign correspondent for The Associated Press and The New York Times and later a top editor of the Times. He died Sunday at the age of 98.



From the [Times' story](#) on Topping's death: "He learned the fast, often dangerous game of deadline journalism the hard way, as a globe-trotting, no-nonsense wire service reporter for 14 years, from 1946 to 1959, first with the International News Service covering China's civil war, then with The Associated Press in Nanking, Saigon, London and Berlin, covering Cold War tensions and fighting." (AP file photo above right taken in AP Berlin bureau in 1958.)

And this from **Lou Boccardi** ([Email](#)) – retired president and CEO of the AP, who said: “‘Top’ left AP ranks some 60 years ago but his respect (and affection) for us endured. His vital place in the evolution of the Times has been well documented. I got to see his style and skill closeup when I served on the Pulitzer Prize board while he was the administrator of the prizes. He was a deft leader who embodied journalistic ideals. The word ‘giant’ does not overstate the case.”

Topping was the oldest member (to my knowledge) of Connecting.

Are you a veteran?

Veterans Day 2020 will be observed this Wednesday and we want to recognize your service in the Connecting issue that day. I invite you to send me the following by Tuesday evening: Your branch of service, years and locations of service, and in 150 words or fewer, how your military service affected your life. I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great week – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Renowned world correspondent Seymour Topping dead at 98



FILE - Seymour Topping, Pulitzer board administrator, speaks at the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University in New York, in this March 4, 2002, file photo. (AP Photo/David Karp, File)



Topping, center, at a 1963 briefing by military officers in Saigon. (AP Photo)

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

NEW YORK (AP) — Seymour Topping, among the most accomplished foreign correspondents of his generation for The Associated Press and the New York Times and later a top editor at the Times and administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, died on Sunday. He was 98.

Topping passed away peacefully at White Plains Hospital, his daughter Rebecca said in an emailed statement.

As a correspondent for the AP in 1949, he was eyewitness to the fall of Nanking, then the capital of Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government, to Mao Zedong's Red Army. It was the key victory in the Communist conquest of China, and Topping was first to report it to the world.

After the Communists consolidated their hold and publicly aligned with Soviet leader Josef Stalin, Topping and other American correspondents were ousted from the mainland, with Topping arriving in Hong Kong in late 1949. From there, after a home leave visit to the United States and an urgent detour to Canada to visit and marry his future wife, Audrey, he returned to the AP bureau in Hong Kong.

He was hoping that the Chinese Communist authorities would agree to his request to go back to China. While awaiting their answer, Topping accepted an assignment in French Indochina.

As he recounted it in a 1972 memoir of his reporting career in Asia, "Journey Between Two Chinas," the AP wanted him to "go to a funny little country whose name was sometimes mixed up by our editors in New York with Indonesia. It was Indochina. There was some kind of trouble in Vietnam, and would I go there for a month?" He and Audrey had just checked into the Continental Hotel in Saigon in February 1950 when a plastic bomb thrown by a cycle driver ripped through a café across the square, shaking the hotel. He rushed out to a scene of chaos.

"French soldiers and sailors, dead and wounded, lay amid overturned tables and shattered glass inside the café and outside on the sidewalk terrace where they had been sipping drinks," he wrote. "The war was on in the South in full fury."

Read more [here](#).

A visit by Topping and his wife to AP New York



Former AP foreign correspondent, Seymour Topping and his wife, photographer and sculptor Audrey Ronning Topping, pose with members of AP's Corporate Archives at New York headquarters, Friday, May 5, 2010. From left to right: archivist Sam Markham, corporate archives director Valerie Komor, Audrey Topping, Seymour Topping, and archivist Francesca Pitaro. Topping conducted a portion of his research in the archives for his memoir, which Audrey proudly holds, *On the Front Lines of the Cold War: An American Correspondent's Journal from the Chinese Civil War to the Cuban Missile Crisis and Vietnam* (LSU Press, 2010). Coincidentally, Topping hired Sam's father, James Markham, at the New York Times in 1971. (AP Photo/Santos Chaparro).

Election 2020 – views of former AP Washington bureau chiefs

Walter Mears ([Email](#)) - One point I found striking was all the attention paid to the fact that Trump did not concede when he lost. Concessions don't change anything - they only confirm the obvious.

Two examples - Barry Goldwater never conceded defeat in 1962 – the LBJ landslide spoke for itself. In 1980 Jimmy Carter conceded early - 9 or so Eastern - to Ronald Reagan. Polls were still open in the West and some Democrats said the Carter concession that the presidential race was over lead later voters not to bother and cost Democratic voters for House and other down ballot contests. Tip O'Neal said the quick concession cost the Democrats voters and some House seats in close Western contests.

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Sandy Johnson ([Email](#)) - We were sitting around our fire pit with some friends the week before the election, having a lively socially distanced discussion about, what else, the election. A new ABC News-Washington Post poll had Joe Biden up by 17 percentage points in Wisconsin. "Biden is NOT going to win Wisconsin by 17 points!" I exclaimed.

Indeed, Biden squeaked out an 0.6% win in Wisconsin.

The media's obsession with polling and the horse race once again led it down a rabbit hole. If reporters had spent any time out in the states, talking with voters, they might have gleaned a different perspective on the election. Chuck and I drove across the United States last summer and saw a very different America – the one that spawned 70 million votes for Donald Trump. We saw exactly two Biden yard signs across 22 states and upwards of a hundred Trump signs. Also a few Confederate flags, truly disheartening, but that's another story.

Lesson one: Polling is unreliable and voters are unpredictable. The predicted blue wave sure didn't extend to the U.S. Senate, the House of Representatives or state legislatures. My retired self would tell my former self to take the pre-election polls with a huge grain of salt. And we saw year after year how rickety the exit polls were. I was glad to see that AP split with Voter News Service and went its own way with VoteCast. (Though there was clearly something funky with VoteCast in Arizona, which led AP and Fox to call AZ while the networks did not.)

Lesson two: Trump dominated the news coverage all year in a way that I thought was unfair to the Democrats and ultimately Biden. I wish every news story that started out "President Trump said blah blah blah" had a second graf that said a) it was a lie/inaccurate/misleading and b) a third graf that spelled out Biden's position. Parity of coverage was critical in this election year like never before.

Lesson three: Beware the next 11 weeks. The media will naturally pivot toward covering Biden and his emerging administration. But Trump will wreak all sorts of havoc -- some actions will be public and some actions we absolutely need the news media to ferret out. Right up until noon on Jan. 20, and perhaps beyond.

Lesson four: Resist commentary! I understand that reporters need to monitor social media because it is a gold mine for stories. But please resist the urge to participate. Nobody cares about your opinions and frankly you shouldn't be sharing them. It only leads to trouble. Same goes with television appearances. The public can't tell a reporter from a commentator, so don't join TV panel discussions that blur the lines between the two.

And kudos to AP for its transparency in explaining the complex election process. It was a very smart strategy to counter the cloud of falsehoods and ignorance.

After waiting game, media moves swiftly to call Biden winner

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — With a fifth day of vote counting testing the nation's patience, news organizations on Saturday moved swiftly following a crucial release of data from Pennsylvania to declare Democrat Joe Biden as the winner of the presidential election.

CNN made its call at 11:24 a.m. Eastern, and was followed within two minutes by The Associated Press, NBC, CBS and ABC. Fox News called the race at 11:40.

Because votes are counted state by state, verdicts by the media outlets' decision desks serve as the unofficial finish line for the presidential race. The dramatic changes

in how people voted this year, in part because of the coronavirus pandemic, and the challenges that created for tallying ballots, complicated the process.

The closeness of the race in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, Nevada and North Carolina proved another challenge.

“We just have to be certain before we call a winner in the presidential election,” said Sally Buzbee, executive editor and senior vice president of the AP.

Read more [here](#).

Click [here](#) for AP story by Brian Slodysko: EXPLAINING RACE CALLS: How AP called the race for Biden

Connecting mailbox

Watching his mom work election night beginning of his political life?



Click [here](#) for story: Joe Biden: Stumbles, tragedies and, now, delayed triumph. Bill is an AP national politics reporter, based in Atlanta.

Covered Philadelphia sports for AP for 50 years **Philadelphia says goodbye to an icon, and the Palestra will never feel the same**



Longtime Associated Press correspondent Jack Scheuer sits courtside at the Palestra in early 2020. (Yong Kim/Philadelphia Inquirer/AP)

By John Feinstein
The Washington Post

PHILADELPHIA — Before the service honoring the remarkable life of Jack Scheuer began here Thursday morning, friends and family spread out around massive Calvary Chapel telling Jack stories.

There was the one about how he had to be tricked into coming to the Palestra on a June night for a massive surprise 75th birthday party. There was the one about how then-Penn coach Fran Dunphy once forgot it was Wednesday and scheduled a practice for 1 o'clock — smack in the middle of Scheuer's weekly noon hoops game.

"Jack just looked at me and said, 'Dunph, seriously?'" Dunphy said with a smile. "I said, 'Sorry, Jack; I forgot.' We went and practiced in the auxiliary gym."

And, of course, everyone talked about the Key.

“I found it,” Scheuer’s son Bobby said with a huge smile. “I told my mom, ‘I didn’t care if I got anything else from the house; I just wanted the Key.’ ”

Scheuer was 88 when he died Oct. 16 after a lengthy battle with cancer that didn’t really slow him down until the last couple of months. He was an icon in Philadelphia, having covered the Phillies, the 76ers and college basketball for the Associated Press for 50 years. But his fame went well beyond that.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Bill McCloskey.

Best of the Week

As families respond to the crisis, AP reveals desperate state of Venezuelan COVID treatment



Elena Suazo, a kindergarten cafeteria worker, puts on protective gear she brought from home, outside the entrance to the COVID-19 wing of José Gregorio Hernández Hospital in the Catia neighborhood of Caracas, Venezuela, as she prepares to enter and care for her 76-year-old hospitalized father, Sept. 24, 2020. In an understaffed public hospital in this ruined country, the only way to ensure that her father received the care he needed was to do it herself, regardless of the dangers to her own health.

AP PHOTO / ARIANA CUBILLOS

Venezuela was one of the least-prepared countries in the world to fight the coronavirus. But it has arguably succeeded on one front: suppressing news of the virus's true impact on its people. That is why this Caracas-based all-formats team scored a breakthrough by telling the actual story in a country where contradicting the government's official narrative on COVID-19 can lead to detention.

The Caracas-based team of correspondent Scott Smith, photographer Ariana Cubillos and video journalist Juan Pablo Arraez delivered a hard-won, exclusive look at the plight of relatives who risk their own lives to take care of loved ones sick with the virus in a rundown public hospital.

Read more [here](#).

Best of the States

AP explores impact of Trump immigration policies; rare interviews with Stephen Miller, migrants



AP Photo/Gregory Bull

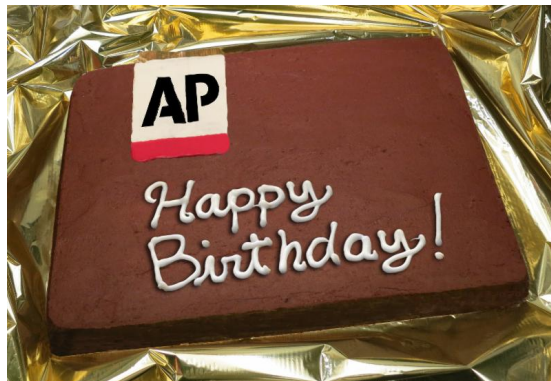
President Donald Trump has altered the immigration system arguably more than any U.S. president, meaning this year's election could have major implications for future

immigration policy and for those trying to enter or stay in the U.S.

In the run-up to the election, AP's immigration team unraveled four key policies that have upended lives: reduced refugee numbers, restrictions on international students, a virtual shutdown of asylum and the curbing of legal immigration.

Read more [here](#).

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Andale Gross - andale.gross@gmail.com

Stories of interest

The media never fully learned how to cover Trump. But they still might have saved democracy. (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

As the cowbells clanged, car horns blasted and anti-Trumpers partied Saturday on my New York City street corner not long after TV networks called the presidential race for Joe Biden, I did what comes most naturally.

I checked my email.

Because I write about the press, people tend to share their thoughts with me about how national politics is being covered, not just in The Washington Post but throughout the mediasphere. Their views, as my father with Irish understatement might phrase it, are various.

“Put this on your refrigerator,” demanded the subject line of one. It seemed unfriendly: “After you filthy sewer rats are exposed . . . there is going to be the greatest spiritual revival hitting this nation than at any time in our history.” It ended in an all-caps flourish: TRUMP FOUR MORE YEARS!

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

-0-

The Trump Presidency Is Ending. So Is Maggie Haberman’s Wild Ride. (New York Times)



Maggie Haberman has consistently painted a portrait of a man who is both smarter and less competent than his enemies believe. Credit...Benjamin Norman for The New York Times

By Ben Smith

Maggie Haberman lives rent-free in Donald Trump’s head, all over the front page of The New York Times and also in a brick house in an unglamorous Brooklyn neighborhood out beyond the Citi Bikes and stately brownstones. On election night, as the votes started coming in, she was seated at her dining room table with her husband and one of her three children, drinking from a liter bottle of Foodtown raspberry seltzer, eating leftover Kit Kats from Halloween, typing and texting, and, still, still, working her sources.

“We’ll see what the late exits look like, but that’s not great?” Ms. Haberman began on one call around 6:20 p.m., typing on her laptop as she talked on the big black iPhone held up to her ear. She told another caller, “I have a funny feeling the president’s going to do better than people think.”

That was the beginning of the end of one of the most astonishing runs in the history of American journalism. Ms. Haberman has been, for the last four years, the source of a remarkably large share of what we know about Donald Trump and his White House, from the Mueller investigation to his personal battle with the coronavirus to his refusal to accept defeat. She’s done more than a story a day, on average, and stories with her byline have accounted for hundreds of millions of page views this year alone. That’s more than anyone else at The Times.

Read more [here](#).

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Biden’s victory seemed clear for more than a day. So why did the media hold off on calling it? (Washington Post)

By Paul Farhi and Elahe Izadi

Day after day, hour after hour, as Joe Biden’s vote tally crept closer to definitive wins in several key states, top news organizations declined to declare what was becoming obvious to many observers — that Biden had won the presidency.

The delay inspired second-guessing from statistical and voting experts, as well as suspicions that the networks were being cowed into excess caution by Biden’s increasingly truculent opponent, President Trump.

“Biden is winning Nevada by TWO POINTS with mostly Dem ballots in Clark remaining and they haven’t called it?” marveled journalist Peter Hamby early Saturday on Twitter. “That’s just bananas. Any other cycle they would have called it.”

“It sure seems to me like not calling the race when the outcome is obvious . . . gives the president more time to spout misinformation,” fretted polling guru Nate Silver on Friday afternoon.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Sibby Christensen.

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Tension, Then Some Tears, as TV News Narrates a Moment for History (New York Times)

By John Koblin, Michael M. Grynbaum and Tiffany Hsu

The tension mounted for days — and then broke, all at once.

CNN went first, calling the presidential election at 11:24 a.m. Eastern. It was followed in quick succession by NBC, CBS, ABC and The Associated Press. Fox News confirmed the outcome at 11:40 a.m., underscoring what its anchor Chris Wallace later called “the power of what we are seeing right now.”

“Here we have on Fox the headline, the chyron at the bottom of the screen, ‘Joe Biden Elected 46th President of the United States,’” Mr. Wallace told his viewers. “On Fox.”

The projection that Joseph R. Biden Jr. had beaten President Trump came after days of slow-burning suspense on the cable news networks and broadcast channels. As millions of anxious viewers watched, the anchors and pundits filled hours of airtime by tracking the vote counts in battleground states. All the while, President Trump fumed and filed legal challenges.

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

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How finding and supporting real news is like voting (Institute for Nonprofit News)

By Sue Cross, executive director and CEO | Institute for Nonprofit News

We’re awash this year in a sea of propaganda and misinformation. Fake news sites, false reports, news-like stories selected and spun not to make us smarter, but to make us hate, to steer us toward supporting someone else’s cause.

Recent reports sound a tsunami alert to the rising tide of the fake and the false. According to The New York Times, at least 1,300 political propaganda sites have sprung up — mimicking local news but serving up spin directed by PR and political operatives far from the hometowns named on their front pages — while false reports written in Spanish are flooding social media to pit Latinos and Blacks against each other. Facebook fiddled with the algorithms that determine what you get to see in your news feed, boosting conservative news and diminishing progressive sources, as reported by The Wall Street Journal. As private social media companies become censors of our public dialogue, the Economist reports, conservatives also fear being muzzled.

Fortunately, we are not powerless against misinformation or the manipulation of our news choices.

As consumers, we have the ultimate defense: credible news. We can find real news, follow it and support it.

Read more [here](#).

The Final Word/Headlines

On front pages after Biden's win, 'A time to heal' (Poynter)

Today's web bonus » Marin coronavirus coverage. marinij.com

SOME SUN High:61 Low:37 » PAGE 04

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REBECCA BLACKWELL — AP PHOTO
People celebrate in Philadelphia after Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump.



DAVID DEE DELGADO — GETTY IMAGES
Joe Biden's victory is celebrated in the streets in Times Square in New York City.



JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO — BAY AREA NEWS GROUP
Talia Johnson celebrates in San Francisco after hearing of Joe Biden's presidential victory.

SEISMIC CHANGE FOR THE NATION

Victorious Biden vows new direction for divided US



President-elect Joe Biden, speaking Saturday in Wilmington, Del., said he would work "with all my heart" to win the confidence of all Americans.

ANDREW HARRIN — AP PHOTO

Speech: Democrat says 'this is the time to heal in America'

By Jonathan Lemire, Zeke Miller and Will Weissert
The Associated Press

Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, positioning himself to be a leader who "scale not to divide, but to unite" a nation



Analysis: Washington changed, but Biden will rely on his style

By Matt Flegenheimer
The New York Times

Joe Biden, distinguished backslapper and inveterate deal-seeker, has spent most of his last 50 years in the middle of things.

As a presidential candidate, he urged moderation, suggesting that the country was not as recession as

WHO SEEMS NOT TO GRIEVE, BUT TO UNITE A NATION gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.

"I sought this office to restore the soul of America," said Biden in a prime-time victory speech not far from his Delaware home, "and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here

BIDEN » PAGE 2

SHERRY LAVARS — MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL

Skye Winfrey of Berkeley joins others to celebrate President-elect Joe Biden's win over President Donald Trump in downtown Fairfax on Saturday.

+ Inside: More on election PAGES A8, A10, A11, A12, A13, A14

SUGGESTING THAT THE COUNTRY WAS NOT AS PROGRESSIVE AS some Democratic rivals insisted.

As vice president, he was the White House emissary dispatched to negotiate with unbending Republicans in Congress, at times with too little success and too willing capitulation in the eyes of liberals.

And across his decades in the Senate, Biden tended

ANALYSIS » PAGE 2

<p>OBAMACARE</p> <p>High court support for health law in doubt</p> <p>Until six weeks ago, defenders of the Affordable Care Act could take comfort in some simple math. PAGE A15</p>		<p>PANDEMIC</p> <p>Europeans divided on lockdown essentials</p> <p>The concept of what is essential to keep a society functioning during lockdowns is gripping Europe. PAGE A16</p>	<p>MIDDLE EAST</p> <p>UAE announces relaxing of Islamic laws</p> <p>Unmarried couples will be allowed to cohabit and so-called "honor killings" will be criminalized. PAGE A18</p>	<p>ONLINE</p> <p>Get more of the story by visiting our website</p> <p>Find additional photos, albums and links to our videos that can enhance local stories.</p> <p>MARINIJ.COM</p>
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By: Kristen Hare

After days of waiting, Sunday front pages around the world led with President-elect Joe Biden, who will be the country’s 46th president. The Atlanta Journal Constitution’s headline captured the moment with the headline “After a long week, a new president.” Front pages around the U.S. included that President Donald Trump hadn’t yet accepted the results, with Biden’s message of unity and healing and with the history made by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Here’s a look at front pages from each state and several around the world, via Newseum, Kiosko and The Paperboy.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

Today in History - Nov. 9, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 9, the 314th day of 2020. There are 52 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 9, 1989, communist East Germany threw open its borders, allowing citizens to travel freely to the West; joyous Germans danced atop the Berlin Wall.

On this date:

In 1620, the passengers and crew of the Mayflower sighted Cape Cod.

In 1938, Nazis looted and burned synagogues as well as Jewish-owned stores and houses in Germany and Austria in a pogrom or deliberate persecution that became known as "Kristallnacht."

In 1961, U.S. Air Force Maj. Robert M. White became the first pilot to fly an X-15 rocket plane at six times the speed of sound. The Beatles' future manager, Brian Epstein, first saw the group perform at The Cavern Club in Liverpool, England.

In 1965, the great Northeast blackout began as a series of power failures lasting up to 13 1/2 hours, leaving 30 million people in seven states and part of Canada without electricity.

In 1967, a Saturn V rocket carrying an unmanned Apollo spacecraft blasted off from Cape Kennedy on a successful test flight.

In 1976, the U.N. General Assembly approved resolutions condemning apartheid in South Africa, including one characterizing the white-ruled government as "illegitimate."

In 2000, George W. Bush's lead over Al Gore in all-or-nothing Florida slipped beneath 300 votes in a suspense-filled recount, as Democrats threw the presidential election to the courts, claiming "an injustice unparalleled in our history."

In 2005, three suicide bombers carried out nearly simultaneous attacks on three U.S.-based hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 victims and wounding hundreds.

In 2007, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf (pur-VEHZ' moo-SHAH'-ruhv) of Pakistan placed opposition leader Benazir Bhutto (BEN'-uh-zeer BOO'-toh) under house arrest for a day, and rounded up thousands of her supporters to block a mass rally against his emergency rule.

In 2011, after 46 seasons as Penn State's head football coach and a record 409 victories, Joe Paterno was fired along with the university president, Graham Spanier, over their handling of child sex abuse allegations against former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky.

In 2012, retired four-star Army Gen. David Petraeus abruptly resigned as CIA director after an affair with his biographer, Paula Broadwell, was revealed by an FBI

investigation.

In 2018, President Donald Trump issued an order to deny asylum to migrants who enter the country illegally; the measure would be blocked by court challenges.

Ten years ago: Continuing his Asia tour, President Barack Obama flew from India to Indonesia, his home for four years of his youth. Former President George W. Bush officially kicked off the release of his memoir, "Decision Points," with a book-signing in Dallas. A special prosecutor cleared the CIA's former top clandestine officer and others of any charges for destroying agency videotapes showing waterboarding of terror suspects, but continued an investigation into whether the harsh questioning went beyond legal boundaries. Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki won his 10th straight Gold Glove, tying the AL record for Gold Gloves by an outfielder shared by Ken Griffey Jr. and Al Kaline.

Five years ago: Minimizing sharp differences, President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reaffirmed their commitment to seeking elusive Middle East peace during a White House meeting. The president of the University of Missouri system and the head of its flagship campus resigned with the football team and others on campus in open revolt over what they saw as indifference to racial tensions at the school. President Obama launched his own personal Facebook page. Andy White, 85, a top session drummer in England during the 1960s who stepped in for newcomer Ringo Starr as the Beatles recorded their debut single "Love Me Do," died in Caldwell, New Jersey.

One year ago: Germany marked the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Berlin Wall, at a ceremony attended by leaders from Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. Police in Hong Kong announced the arrests of six pro-democracy lawmakers. Australian officials said wildfires razing the country's drought-stricken east coast had left at least three people dead, with more than 150 homes destroyed. (At least 34 people and more than a billion animals would die in Australia's wildfire season, with thousands of people displaced and 47 million acres burned.)

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer Whitey Herzog is 89. Actor Charlie Robinson is 75. Movie director Bille August is 72. Actor Robert David Hall is 72. Actor Lou Ferrigno is 69. Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, is 68. Gospel singer Donnie McClurkin is 61. Rock musician Dee Plakas (L7) is 60. Actor Ion Overman is 51. Rapper Pepa (Salt-N-Pepa) is 56. Rapper Scarface (Geto Boys) is 50. Blues singer Susan Tedeschi (teh-DEHS'-kee) is 50. Actor Jason Antoon is 49. Actor Eric Dane is 48. Singer Nick Lachey (98 Degrees) is 47. Country musician Barry Knox (Parmalee) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sisqo (Dru Hill) is 42. Country singer Corey Smith is 41. Country singer Chris Lane is 36. Actor Emily Tyra is 33. Actor Nikki Blonsky is 32. Actor-model Analeigh (AH'-nuh-lee) Tipton is 32.

Got a story or photos to share?

Got a story to share? A favorite memory of your AP days? Don't keep them to yourself. Share with your colleagues by sending to Ye Olde Connecting Editor. And don't forget to include photos!

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.
- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.
- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.
- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.
- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.
- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.
- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?
- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.
- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

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