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Connecting
November 13, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 13th day of November 2020,

As the AP's new correspondent in Wichita, I was invited to Kansas City for a correspondents news meeting hosted by CoB **Fred Moen** and at the dinner table, I had what I thought was an innocent request: could I purchase a box of business cards?

Conversation at the table came to a halt and Fred scowled at me, grabbed a cocktail napkin, scrawled his name on it, then tossed it in my direction. "That's what I use, Stevens! That's good enough for you, too!" he exclaimed. And that was that.

I'm reminded of this 1976 "finance educational opportunity" when colleague **Bill McCloskey** shared the last three paragraphs of a Washington Post story: **Seymour Topping, high-powered foreign correspondent and editor, dies at 98**. With the story, Bill wrote, "As we often said, 'you can't spell cheAP without AP.'"

Those last three grafs:

Long before the advent of cable news or the Internet, Mr. Topping relied on telegrams to get the news out, taking a rickshaw or sprinting to the Beijing cable office to beat his competitors after a news conference ended. He was still writing telegrams when he joined the Times, where his colleague James "Scotty" Reston looked on in amusement as Mr. Topping filed one of his first stories from Moscow.

"He saw me doing something very peculiar on the dispatch," Mr. Topping later told the Baltimore Sun. "I was crossing out the thes and the a's to save money because you were charged by the word. Having spent 10 years with the parsimonious AP, I always did that.

"Scotty laughed and said, 'Forget that. We don't do that sort of thing at the Times. Go file the story and don't do that again.' To me, that was the difference between working for the AP and working for the New York Times."

Was AP ahead of it's time – as we see the economies foisted on our industry today? Maybe so, maybe not. But I do know that in my 36 years in the cooperative, 25 of them as a bureau chief, I was taught that you'd much rather explain why you spent what was needed to cover a big news story than to save the money by not doing so and lose the play.

As for Topping, I am told by Corporate Archives director **Valerie Komor**, who knew him well, that he always loved the AP more than any other news organization, that AP was family to him.

We lead today's issue with more of your stories of facing physical threats while doing your job. Hope you share your own.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Your experiences with receiving threats while on the job

AP's Hussein Malla performed the most courageous feat of photography



AP Photos/Hussein Malla

Charlie Hanley (Email) - It was a threat directed elsewhere that sent an instant chill down this reporter's spine.

Fallujah, Iraq, April 30, 2003. Two nights before, 82nd Airborne troops opened fire on protesters who wanted them out of their neighborhood school. Fifteen were killed and dozens wounded, including people in their homes across the way. Now I'm there, interviewing witnesses. An enraged man approaches, clutching a photo of his baby girl, shot dead by the Americans. "Is he with al-Jazeera?" he demands of my interpreter. Told no, he rants, "Otherwise I would kill him! They put a lying American general on the TV!" I'm soon reflecting on how many lying American generals I've quoted in stories he'll never read.

Just an hour or so later, AP's Hussein Malla performs the most courageous feat of photography I've ever seen.

A protest march of 1,000 Iraqi men halts in front of the U.S.-occupied police headquarters. Soon rocks and shoes are being flung at the paratroopers' bunkers. Suddenly a U.S. Army convoy appears, drives between the two sides, and a soldier manning a truck-mounted .50-caliber machine gun opens fire on the crowd. More Americans open up. Fallujah's mayor and I cling to the earth for dear life as bullets stream overhead. But there in front of us Hussein has climbed atop a low wall, to the right of the bunkers, feet from the passing convoy, and is himself firing away, producing pix so remarkable that NY Photos runs an entire sequence of 40-plus frames showing the bloody scene unfolding. His photos (two of them here) fill much of the next day's NYTimes front page. At least three Iraqis were killed, 18 wounded.

I've always wondered whether it was Hussein's shirt that saved him from being shot by trigger-happy troopers. He was wearing a dark plaid flannel shirt, looking for all the world like an out-of-place lumberjack, not one of the white-dishdasha-wearing locals. Based in Beirut, he's still shooting, one of AP's best.

Two close calls with baseball managers

Mike Harris ([Email](#)) - Bruce Lowitt's Connecting story (in Thursday's issue) about his run-in with Yogi Berra reminded me of two close calls I had with baseball managers during my time as AP's Cleveland sports writer in the late 80's.

The first came in my second year in Cleveland when the Detroit Tigers were in town. The Tigers were managed by Ralph Houk, a former Marine and known to be a tough guy.

After the Indians beat the Tigers in a close game, I ran into the visiting manager's office and asked about a late pitching change and why Houk had made the move at that particular moment.

He took offense at my question, leaped out of his seat and started to come around the desk with his hands balled into fists and fire in his eyes.

I must have looked shocked, and probably very afraid, and he stopped in his tracks and said, "Next question."

At that point, I had no more questions and made my exit.

A year or so later, I was part of a post-game scrum around Yankees' fiery manager Billy Martin. They had won the game, but Martin appeared to be in some kind of funk. Maybe he was about to be fired by George Steinbrenner - again.

I asked him why he had chosen to bring in a left-handed reliever to face a right-handed batter when he also had a righty ready in the bullpen. Generally, managers try to go with a right-handed pitcher against a right-handed batter. It's the percentage thing to do.

For whatever reason, Martin took offense at my question and launched a string of epithets that were actually very colorful and somewhat original. Several of the Yankees writers started to chuckle and that made Martin even more angry.

He got up and hovered over me like he was going to start punching. This time, I stayed calm, at least outwardly, and said in a very measured tone, "I meant nothing by that question. I just noticed you went against the percentages and I wondered why?"

The fire drained out of Martin's eyes and he walked back around his desk, sat down and gave me a decent answer to my question, as if nothing had happened. I'm not sure I even wrote down his answer, but I got out of there in a hurry.

A couple of the New York writers later came over to me in the press box and told me they had never seen Martin calm down that fast. I'm just glad it worked.

Enduring threats including Korean War and Civil Rights Movement



British troops lowering a wounded British soldier after the accidental bombing. It was just moments after I took this that the British soldier tried to kill me. (1950)

Gene Herrick ([Email](#)) - Threats to journalist's lives are not new. From the time beginning, citizens of the world have taken umbrage with members of the media from real indignity or assumed indignity. Nothing has changed.

However, in today's life, and with today's weird political situation, and divided populace, we are finding the new dangers of being a journalist – writer or photographer. We are on high alert in today's coverage.

I join the multitude of journalists who have been threatened. The first I had was with an Indiana representative to Congress, following his defense appearance before a U.S. Judge, who found him guilty of something. He raised hell with me for taking his picture in a Federal Building. I held my camera ready to swat him if he carried through on his attack. The judge said I had every right to shoot the picture, because it was not in the courtroom. (About 1948)

I've had bricks whiz past my head during a labor strike in Memphis. I've had a bayonet pushing against my back during student riots on the campus of Ohio State University (1970).

After the Korean War, I went to Big Stone Gap, VA., to cover the return of an American "Turncoat," Cpl. Edward Dickenson, after his capture by North Koreans during the war in 1950.

Dickenson was a prisoner, served time in Korea, and released. Walking up a steep mountain path to the old wooden home of Dickenson, a bearded man jumped out from behind a tree and placed the end of a rifle barrel in the middle of my chest. (About 1953)

In covering the Emmitt Till murder trial in 1955, I always felt a threat from one of the relatives of Roy Bryant, and J.W. Milam, who were charged, and tried, and found not guilty in the brutal murder. Every day at the trial he glowered at me. Shortly after that, while I was covering another race murder, I saw Milam and this other man, who was carrying a big gun in his hip pocket, which was covered by a shirt hanging out. He was still glowering. Milam and this man came to my motel room while I was processing the pictures. Milam suggested we go get a bottle. I told him I was busy, but I gave money to a young AP reporter, who just about died at the thought, to get the boot-leg bottle and return. The reporter, and the man with the gun, just about flipped out when I asked Milam (who had been very helpful and friendly to me at the trial) if he had killed Emmitt Till. Milam smiled and the other two went into shock. We all had a drink.

Golf can be a hazard. About 1955 I covered golfer Jerry Springer during a PGA event at Ardmore, Oklahoma. He was a lesser known. As I walked toward a green, I saw this player attempting to hit his ball from behind a tree next to the green. I knew he could not do it. I readied my camera from slightly behind and to the right. He hit the ball; I took the picture. The ball ricochet away. He turned to me, and threw his club, which hit me behind my knees as I turned. Then he came at me. At the same time, three big young fellows rushed over to me. I just knew I was going to get beat up. However, the young men defended me. After processing and transmitting the picture, PGA officials came to me to see my negative. They said fine, the ball is airborne, and you didn't bother him.

The worst case of threatening death to me came during the early part of the Korean War in 1950. Things were slack on the battle fields. I decided to go up to the British

battle front. I went to the little field command post and talked with a couple of the officers. Suddenly the field radio blared that the British troops had been accidentally hit by American jet fighters. We all rushed to the scene. Suddenly, a wounded British trooper lunged at me with his gun and bayonet, and was inches from my chest when one of the command officers grabbed the gun and bayonet before it plunged into my heart. Later, as I helped carry a stretch with a very seriously wounded trooper, enemy shells bombarded us. After one of those, I looked to see a British soldier dead with head wounds. It was the man who saved my life. I shall never forget.

Getting run out of Mexico at gunpoint

Marc Wilson ([Email](#)) - This is the story of how when I was covering the statehouse in Little Rock I got run out of Mexico at gunpoint.

Louis Uchitelle, who'd taken over from Jack Cappon running AP Newsfeatures, called me in Little Rock in 1975.

"Do you have any good story ideas for me?" he asked. (My ambition then was to work my way onto the APME staff -- Poet's Corner -- so I had written several features for both Cappon and Uchitelle.)

"Not really," I answered. "But the Arkansas attorney general did just issue a warning advising Arkansans to not go to Mexican border town clinics for arthritis treatments. Maybe one of our bureaus near the border could look into that. Could be a good story."

"Sounds like a great story! When can you do it?" Lou asked.

"Little Rock is a long way from the U.S.-Mexican border."

"How far?"

"Well, we got Texas between us and the border."

"That's just one state."

"It's a big state, Lou."

"If I get you \$1,000 in expense money can you get down there and do the story?"

"I'll have to ask my bureau chief."

John Robert Starr was COB. He was dumbfounded and angry when he heard Uchitelle's proposal. "That (the \$1,000) is more than my entire year's travel budget,"

he said.

He got up from his desk and stormed out of the bureau without another word.

The next day he returned and called me into his office.

"I still can't believe this," he said. "But I tell you what: I'll give you two enterprise days and you can combine them with your two days off, and you can go down to Mexico to do the story."

I did some research, found out that the biggest border clinic involved was in Mexicali. I called the clinic and asked to speak to the doctor.

"I hate American reporters!" the doctor said. "I will not speak to you. Do not come here." And he hung up. That was a no comment.

Undaunted, I flew to San Diego, rented a car and drove to Calexico, California, the U.S. border town just north of Mexicali.

Calexico was full of American arthritis sufferers who had come from all over the country to buy six-month supplies of drugs from the Mexicali clinic. They were staying in shabby little motel rooms near the border.

I talked to a dozen or so American patients, all of whom sang the praises of the Mexican doctor, his treatments and his pharmacy that supplied drugs that were outlawed in the United States. The doctor even ran a taxi service that shuttled patients from his clinic to his pharmacy. Hundreds of patients a day bought six-month supplies of drugs that the Arthritis Foundation said were nothing but steroids.

"When I came down here the first time," one patient told me, "I was in a wheelchair. When I took the doctor's drugs I danced that night. It's a miracle. I have to come down here every six months because the doctor limits the amounts we can buy."

I learned that nearly every day American patients lined up outside the clinic, beginning as early as 5 a.m. The clinic opened its doors at 6 a.m. and operated until 8 p.m.

Each patient would first go to the clinic simply to set up an appointment to meet with the doctor later in the day.

So I showed up at 5 a.m. carrying my Konica camera to take photos of the Americans waiting in line. Every American I talked to was full of praise for the doctor and his pills. They also criticized U.S. drug officials for preventing them from getting their "miracle drugs" back home.

At about 5:55 a.m., a nurse came out of the clinic and told me, "The doctor wants to see you."

"When I called him on the phone," I replied, "he said he wouldn't see me."

"He'll see you."

When the clinic opened a few minutes later, I went inside with maybe 50 American patients, all of whom took seats on a wooden bench lining the a large, Spartan waiting room.

I got smiles and thumbs up from several Americans, and promises, "You'll love the doctor. We're glad you'll get to see him!"

Moments later, the same nurse came to me, and said, "The doctor will see you now."

"But all these other people are ahead of me. I don't want to cut in line."

"The doctor will see you -- now!"

So I got up and headed to the doctor's office. I saw more thumbs up, smiles and waves from the patients.

The doctor's office was nondescript.

We angrily waved me to a chair, and started cursing a met in a combination of Spanish and English.

"Goddam it, I told you not to come. I hate American reporters! You can't be trusted!"

"All your patients love you, doctor," I answered. "No one has said a bad word about you."

"I don't care, Goddamit! You mxxxxfxxxxr reporters!"

He reached into a desk drawer and pulled out a large brown pistol.

And pointed at me.

"Give me your camera, Goddamit!"

I was just a couple of steps from the door that led to the waiting room. He's not going to shoot me where there were 50 or so Americans. He's not going to shoot.

So I stood up to leave.

“Take one more step and I’ll shoot.”

The look in his eyes was not kind. I decided he would do harm.

“Would you settle for the film?” I asked.

He reached over, grabbed the camera, ripped open the back and tore out the film.

I still not really scared.

Then the doctor opened his back door to the alley. Eight or ten young ruffians are waiting there. Waiting for me.

Still pointing his pistol at me, he pushed me out and ordered the ruffians to “take him away -- to the border.”

Now I’m scared.

I didn’t believe the doctor would shoot an A.P. reporter in his own office.

But there wasn’t much that would stop the ruffians from doing to me whatever they wanted, or whatever the doctor wanted them to do to me.

Cursing, hooting and kicking dirt at me, they escorted me about 300 yards to the border crossing.

I reported the episode to border crossing official. The guy in charge asked, “Do you have a permit to work in Mexico?”

I didn’t. He advised me to go home, and offered no help.

I spent another night, a nervous night, in Calexico before driving back to San Diego the next morning.

I had a story to tell. One that most statehouse reporters can’t match.

Connecting mailbox

Privileged to be Barry Locher's colleague

Don Cooper (Email) - Thanks for including the item about Barry Locher's passing in Thursday's Connecting. Barry was a great photographer, great editor and a great person.

Barry and I were classmates at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. We didn't know each other well in college; Barry was in the photography sequence and I was in news-editorial. His mentor at Mizzou was Angus McDougall (one of the great names in academia), who preached that "words and photos go together." Barry's rise from photo intern to editor at the Springfield State Journal-Register was a testament to his skills as a journalist and as a leader. Barry, along with SJ-R publisher Pat Coburn, produced an excellent newspaper.

It was a privilege to become Barry's colleague when Copley Newspapers, which owned the Springfield newspaper, bought the Galesburg (IL) Register-Mail, where I was publisher. I will always cherish our time together.

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Sign of the Times?



Paul Bowker (Email) - In these sad days of newspaper buildings being lost and repurposed, here's this scene from the front entrance of the Cape Cod Times in

Hyannis, Massachusetts.

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Connecting sky shot – Yaquina Head, Oregon



Photo by Lee J. Siegel ([Email](#))

Dispute over access prompts AP to drop CMA Awards coverage

By MARK KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press has pulled out of its planned coverage of Wednesday's Country Music Association Awards show due to restrictions that have been placed on still photographers and screen captures of the broadcast.

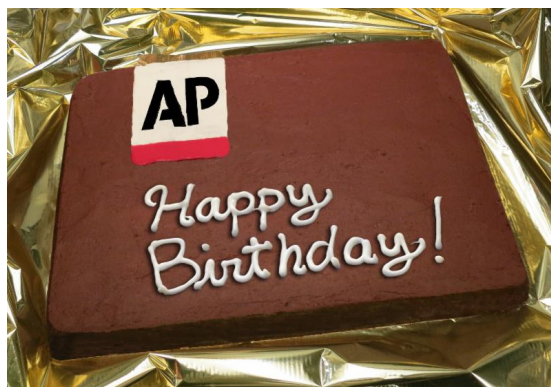
The wire service has refused to accept limitations that organizers of the show have placed on images from the venue that it believes affects its ability to accurately report on the event. The restrictions prevent AP from providing coverage of the ceremony "to its standards," according to an advisory it sent to members. The AP will not write about, take images of or shoot video of the show.

Organizers had initially sought AP photo coverage from inside the ceremony, but said that due to coronavirus precautions it could not accommodate a wire service photographer.

The association instead said the AP could license images of the show. The AP declined. In the world of news photography, a license means paying for images. The CMA says it was not seeking compensation for a license.

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

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Peter Arnett - parnett348@aol.com

And (apologetically) a day late to...

Lynne Harris - lharris@hotmail.com

Stories of interest

How to cover a coup — or whatever it is Trump is attempting (Washington Post)

By Margaret Sullivan
Media columnist

President Trump lost. The nation knows it. The world knows it. And, although he won't admit it, he certainly knows it, too.

But because he is claiming otherwise — with his Republican enablers joining the chorus — this past week has presented the reality-based press with a strange and extremely important challenge.

How do you cover something that, at worst, lays the groundwork for a coup attempt and, at best, represents a brazen lie that could be deeply damaging to American democracy?

"You don't want to fearmonger. You don't want to underplay something this dangerous, either," Noah Shachtman, editor of the Daily Beast, told me.

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

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'A Black Eye': Why Political Polling Missed the Mark. Again. (New York Times)

By David Leonhardt

Senator Susan Collins did not lead in a single publicly released poll during the final four months of her re-election campaign in Maine. But Ms. Collins, a Republican, won the election comfortably.

Senator Thom Tillis, a North Carolina Republican, trailed in almost every poll conducted in his race. He won, too.

And most polls underestimated President Trump's strength, in Iowa, Florida, Michigan, Texas, Wisconsin and elsewhere. Instead of winning a landslide, as the polls suggested, Joseph R. Biden Jr. beat Mr. Trump by less than two percentage points in the states that decided the election.

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

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To capture Trump golfing as Biden won, photographers clicked away across the Potomac

(Washington Post)

By Andrea Salcedo

Jabin Botsford peered across the Potomac River through his camera, straining to focus in on the tiny figures nearly a mile away on a golf course. The Washington Post photographer stood on a riverfront footpath in Maryland just before noon Saturday alongside two photojournalists also with the White House press pool, as they pointed their long lenses across the water.

They were all waiting for President Trump to become visible as he rode in a golf cart through his 800-acre private golf club in Sterling, Va.

"This was definitely stretching the limitations of my equipment and the technology," said Botsford, 30, who in his five years covering Trump had never before photographed the president golfing. "It was very hard to tell which groups of golf carts were his."

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

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Robert Fisk, daring but controversial British war correspondent and author, dies at 74 (Washington Post)

By Phil Davison

Robert Fisk was widely regarded as one of England's most daring and controversial journalists of his generation. Best known for his reports in the Times of London and later the fledgling Independent, he was among the few foreign correspondents brave (some said foolhardy) enough to live full-time in the volatile Lebanese capital, Beirut, during its years of civil wars and foreign interventions by U.S., U.N., Syrian and Israeli forces.

He won more British journalism awards than any of his peers, including British Foreign Reporter of the Year seven times and the Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism in 2002. The New York Times described him in 2005 as "probably the most famous foreign correspondent in Britain."

Having suffered an apparent stroke at his home in Dalkey, a suburb of Dublin, he died Oct. 30 in a nearby hospital at 74, according to David Marley, acting editor of the Independent, where Mr. Fisk had continued to work until his death.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Valerie Komor.

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Fox News Parts Ways With John Solomon, Architect of Trump's Ukraine Conspiracies (Daily Beast)

By JUSTIN BARAGONA

After a tumultuous year at Fox News that included the network's own "Brain Room" warning hosts and anchors not to trust his "disinformation," pro-Trump columnist John Solomon is no longer a paid contributor with the network.

A Fox News spokesperson confirmed to The Daily Beast that Solomon is no longer affiliated with the conservative cable outlet. Solomon did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

While Solomon's hits on Fox News have dried up in recent months—he has not appeared since July—he has remained a regular presence on the Fox Business Network's stridently pro-Trump shows hosted by Lou Dobbs and Maria Bartiromo. In his recent appearances, he has been identified solely as the editor-in-chief of his right-wing digital outlet Just The News, or as the author of *Fallout*, his latest book, which was heartily endorsed by President Donald Trump.

The last time he was identified as a Fox contributor on its airwaves was during an Oct. 14 appearance on Bartiromo's morning FBN show. Solomon's Twitter account does not list Fox News in his bio.

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

The Final Word

Belgium exempts gift-bearing St Nicholas from virus measures



FILE - In this Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014 file photo, two police officers walk by a giant statue of Saint Nicolas in front of the town hall of Sint-Niklaas, Belgium. To ensure the merriment of millions of Belgian kids this year, the government is offering a special exemption from the stringent coronavirus measures to beloved Saint Nicholas, who always delivers bountiful presents on the morning of Dec. 6. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, File) Read more [here](#).

Today in History - Nov. 13, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 13, the 318th day of 2020. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

On this date:

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1927, the Holland Tunnel opened to the public, providing access between lower Manhattan and New Jersey beneath the Hudson River.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1969, speaking in Des Moines, Iowa, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew accused network television news departments of bias and distortion, and urged viewers to lodge complaints.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2000, lawyers for George W. Bush failed to win a court order barring manual recounts of ballots in Florida. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris announced she would end the recounting at 5 p.m. Eastern time the next day — prompting an immediate appeal by lawyers for Al Gore.

In 2001, President George W. Bush approved the use of a special military tribunal that could put accused terrorists on trial faster and in greater secrecy than an ordinary criminal court. President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin met at the White House, where they pledged to slash Cold War-era nuclear arsenals by two-thirds.

In 2014, Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League MVP award since Bob Gibson in 1968; Los Angeles Angels' outfielder Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the AL MVP.

In 2016, President-elect Donald Trump named Republican Party chief Reince Priebus (rhymes with PREE'-bus) as White House chief of staff and conservative media executive Stephen Bannon as his top presidential strategist.

Ten years ago: Pro-democracy hero Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) walked free in Myanmar after more than seven years under house arrest. Former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel officially announced his ultimately successful candidacy for mayor of Chicago.

Five years ago: Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

One year ago: The House Intelligence Committee opened two weeks of public impeachment hearings with a dozen current and former career foreign service officials and political appointees scheduled to testify about efforts by President Donald Trump and others to pressure Ukraine to investigate Trump's political rivals. The top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine, William Taylor, offered new evidence that Trump was overheard asking about political "investigations" that he later demanded from Ukraine in exchange for military aid. Justin Verlander won a second American League Cy Young Award, beating fellow Houston Astros pitcher Gerrit Cole; New York Mets ace Jacob DeGrom won the National League prize for the second straight year.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 86. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 79. Blues singer John Hammond is 78. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 74. Actor Joe Mantegna is 73. Actor Sheila Frazier is 72. Musician Andrew Ranken (The Pogues) is 67. Actor Tracy Scoggins is 67. Actor Chris Noth (noth) is 66. Actor-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 65. Actor Rex Linn is 64. Actor Caroline Goodall is 61. Actor Neil Flynn is 60. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde (teh-teh-VUR'-dee) is 57. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is

56. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 53. Actor Steve Zahn is 53. Actor Gerard Butler is 51. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 51. Actor Jordan Bridges is 47. Actor Aisha Hinds is 45. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 42. Former NBA All-Star Metta World Peace (formerly Ron Artest) is 41. Actor Monique Coleman is 40. Actor Rahul Kohli is 35. Actor Devon Bostick is 29.

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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