

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

[View as Webpage](#)



# Connecting

November 16, 2020

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



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

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



Cincinnati airport, October 2018 (Photo by Evan Vucci/Associated Press)

Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of November 2020,

**Jonathan Lemire's** world as an AP reporter changed drastically on the morning of June 16, 2015, when he was assigned by then-political editor **David T. Scott** to check out whether as rumored, Donald Trump would launch his campaign for the presidency.

And what a journey Lemire has logged since witnessing Trump coming down the golden escalator at Trump Tower in midtown New York City.

As a White House reporter, Lemire has become one of AP's best-known bylines for his coverage of the Trump presidency and we feature him in our Monday Spotlight.

Today's issue also brings you more of your colleagues' stories on facing danger in their work reporting the news. This has been a popular feature and I hope you'll share your own story.

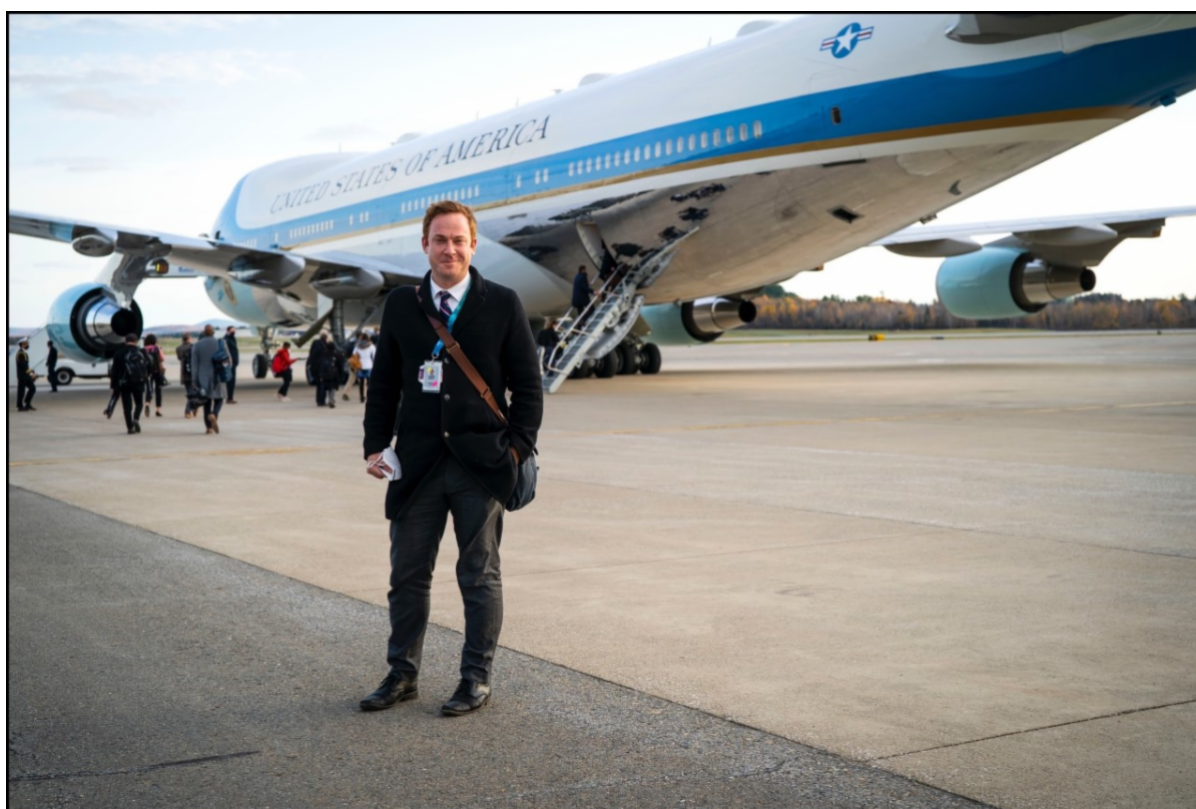
Finally, the Connecting books issue will be appearing in the next week or so – in time for you to make an order for a holiday gift – and if you have written a book in the past year and not yet responded, the time is nigh. Thanks to 16 of you who have submitted their book story.

Have a great day and week ahead! Be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Connecting Profile

# Jonathan Lemire



Bangor, Maine: October 2020 (Photo by Doug Mills/New York Times)

### What are you doing these days?

I'm a White House reporter with The Associated Press. I just wrote our Election Night mainbar and am now covering the tumultuous transition from Trump to President-elect Joe Biden. Plus, I'm a political analyst with MSNBC and regularly appear on shows like "Morning Joe," "Deadline: White House with Nicolle Wallace" and "The 11th Hour with Brian Williams." Note: I don't sleep much.

### How did you get into journalism and what were your first jobs?

Growing up, I was always drawn to newspapers, particularly the sports pages. In college, I worked at the Columbia Spectator, the campus paper and wrote for the school's alumni magazine. I actually turned down the first job I was offered in journalism: and it was at the AP! I graduated in May 2001 and turned down an

overnight sports agate job in favor of a metro internship at the New York Daily News. I was in that role on September 11th and proceeded to work around the clock for months. I was brought on staff early in 2002 and spent a decade-plus at the Daily News, covering a variety of beats, including the NYPD, FDNY, City Hall and the 2012 presidential election.

**How did you get your first job with the AP? Who hired you? What were your first days like?**

I was hired to AP's New York City bureau in June 2013 by Karen Testa Wong, head of the East Region; James Martinez, the New York State editor; and Amanda Barrett, the NYC editor. It was a slightly, ahem, different sensibility than a New York tabloid but I adjusted soon enough. I was hired by AP to cover that year's NYC mayoral campaign, which was the race to replace Michael Bloomberg. Bill de Blasio won but, really, it was the race that Anthony Weiner lost. And at the time, I thought that might be the craziest campaign I'd ever cover!

**What were your different past jobs in the AP, in order? Describe briefly what you did with each?**

As noted above, my first job was to cover that mayor's race. That led to two-plus years of covering New York City and New York State politics. I was in that role when, on the morning of June 16, 2015, I received a call from then-political editor David T. Scott to head to Midtown to see if this longshot rumored candidate for president would indeed launch his campaign. Yep: I was there when Donald Trump came down the golden escalator.

I moved full-time to the campaign team a few months later and spent 2016 following Trump around the country. After he won, I joined the White House team, splitting time between New York and Washington. I've remained on the beat ever since, from Mueller to Charlottesville to Helsinki to impeachment to COVID-19. And I was one of our lead reporters covering his re-election campaign.



Trump-Putin news conference at Helsinki summit, July 2018 (Photo by Doug Mills/New York Times)

### What was the biggest story or stories you covered or handled?

If I just say “Donald Trump” is that a cop-out? But I guess my answer would be three-fold: 1) Being in New York during the September 11th attacks – I made it down to Ground Zero on the 12th and spent days there – and covering the city grieving and rebuilding; 2) The Trump campaign in 2016 and, after talking to voters day after day, becoming increasingly convinced he was going to win; 3) His presidency, in which he remade the office, at least temporarily, bent his adopted Republican party to his will, and then grappled with the pandemic. And I was fortunate to be with the president on some of the most significant days of his term, including his “both sides” Charlottesville news conference, his summit with Putin in Helsinki and his visit to the DMZ with Kim Jong Un.



**Describe your analyst work. Is it difficult to not cross the analysis/opinion line? How does it help your AP work?**

It's a terrific opportunity and has only helped my work at AP. I've been a contributor at MSNBC for three years now and am a regular on a variety of shows, most notably Morning Joe. It exposes me to a wide variety of lawmakers and experts who have become resources in my reporting. Plus, TV still does open doors – particularly in a Trump White House. Folks are sometimes more likely to return your calls if they know the boss is watching. And I'm certainly glad to give AP a seat at the table, as it were, along with reporters from places like the New York Times, Washington Post, etc.

**Names of your family members and what they do?**

My wife, Carrie Melago, (right) is also a journalist. We met at the NY Daily News and she then moved on to the Wall Street Journal. She is now a top editor at Chalkbeat, an education news website. We have two sons: Beckett, 9, is in 4th grade while Flynn, 6, is in 1st grade. Both, like me, care entirely too much about the Boston Red Sox.



**Who played the most significant role in your career and how?**

There are too many names here to mention. Just a few: Rick Pienciak, later of AP, who was Metro Editor at the NY Daily News and offered me the internship in 2001 that changed everything for me. Alex Sachare, an AP alum, who helped guide me at the Columbia alumni magazine. At AP NYC: James, Amanda, Karen and David Caruso. In Washington, Julie Pace and Nancy Benac and David T. Scott. My colleagues, of course,

on the AP campaign and White House teams. At MSNBC: Joe Scarborough, Mike Barnicle, Willie Geist, Nicolle Wallace and Brian Williams.

And most of all: my parents, Robert and Susan Lemire, who instilled in me a love of politics and history; my brother, Joseph Lemire, a journalist at SportTechie; and my wife, who has always been my most trusted adviser.

### **Would you do it all over again - or what would you change?**

Recommend that the folks at Morning Joe start their show each day at 8:00 a.m. instead of 6:00 a.m.

### **What's your favorite hobby or activity?**

I'm a huge sports fan. And because I grew up in Massachusetts, I have a strict party-line allegiance to all of the New England teams. If you ever need someone to recite the play-by-play from the 2004 Red Sox playoff comeback against the Yankees, I'm your guy. I still follow the teams religiously, which I love, but even better is playing and watching sports with my sons and helping coach their teams.

### **What's the best vacation trip you've ever made?**

The DMZ isn't that family-friendly. So, let's call it a tie between a family vacation to the Bahamas and a pre-kids trip to Europe, where we explored my ancestral roots in Ireland and hers in Slovakia, along with stops in Vienna and Prague. But a 2007 trip to Rome, perhaps my favorite city, is right up there too.

**Jonathan Lemire's email - [jlemire@ap.org](mailto:jlemire@ap.org)**

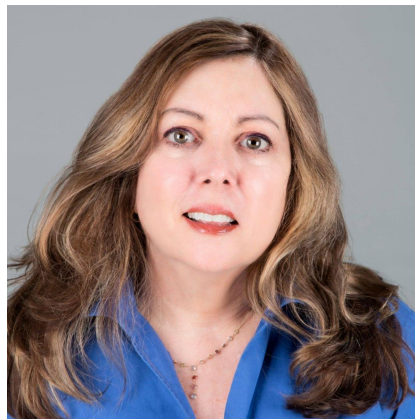
## ***Connecting series:***

# **Your experiences with receiving threats while on the job**

## ***Online attacks against woman journalists via social media and direct emails***

**Anita Snow ([Email](#))** - I've been reading all these stories of the past about men being threatened for doing their jobs, but there's an important issue that has not come up yet: online attacks against woman journalists via social media and direct emails.

In this age of social media, women journalists are regularly harassed, insulted and threatened with everything from gang rape to murder for writing the most simple, straightforward news stories that somehow triggers the reader-threatener.



During my years as AP's COB in Havana, I was regularly referred to by the C-word, something no one has ever called me except for these strangers, on exile blogs and even emails directly sent to me, with suggestions that I was a whore sleeping with Cuban military officials.

Now often covering immigration issues in the Southwest, I get about half a dozen of these emails from anonymous senders a year, often suggesting I should be murdered for writing the most straight forward news piece about immigrants or a young black man killed because of the color of his skin.

If you want to see an example, you can look on my alternate Anita Snow FB page, Anita Snow writer - <https://www.facebook.com/Asnowreports>

I did report it to FB administrators and decided to leave it up as evidence of the misogyny and racism that many woman writers are so familiar with.

*David Huntington 'Outrage over killing of black teen over rap music complaint' .....It's amazing how you assholes report the race of crimes when the victim is black but when the perpetrator is black no race is mentioned. I hate assholes like and hope you get murdered by a black thug!*

*Delete, hide or report this*

It's so common now I rarely even mention it.

I can't imagine what it would be like if I were Latina or Black.

## ***A scare at an IRA funeral***

**Ben Dobbin (Email)** - I was interviewing friendly locals and some visitors from Belfast along the country lanes of Co. Fermanagh in September 1985 when I suddenly found myself confronted by an angry gathering. One fellow in the forefront demanded that I turn over my notebook.

The day before, two English reporters had been beaten up after the London tabloids delivered a triumphant take on three men in the Irish Republican Army—two brothers and a brother-in-law—who were slain in a British Army ambush.



It was my turn, it seemed. My reaction was resolute. “No, you’re not getting my notebook. I work for AP, the American news agency. We give the full picture of the Troubles.”

The crowd of maybe a dozen men advanced. I was backed up toward a gate into a field. Then they seemed to hesitate, and began to retreat, although their curses grew louder and more profane. They seemed to be looking past me, so I glanced over my shoulder.

By sheer chance, two armed soldiers had appeared, walking through the field not 30 yards away.

Not a terrible scare, even in hindsight. Nothing like what Charlie Hanley endured in Iraq. But that’s my tale from Loughmacrory, a scare courtesy of my Irish brethren. I was born in Dublin of Belfast parents, already losing my brogue.

It was surreal stuff at the funerals for these well-known IRA men—who were armed and dressed for a violent mission when bullets riddled their car. Gerry Adams delivered a eulogy through a bullhorn as an army helicopter clattered right above the graveyard. The hundreds of nationalist mourners were watched by 500 riot police.

I spent my first decade at AP in London and 50 Rockefeller Plaza, finishing up a 28-year career feeling like a foreign correspondent in Rochester, N.Y.

## *Hostility from people whose stories I’m trying to tell to the world*

**Ted Shaffrey** ([Email](#)) – AP videojournalist, New York - Like many at AP, I’ve encountered hostility from people whose stories I’m trying to tell to the world.



I’ve been a staff videojournalist at The Associated Press since 2005. I cover general assignment breaking news on elections, government, climate change, sustainability, the economy, terrorism, art, health, science, education, federal and state crimes and courts, and natural disasters.

In this video, I share seven different examples. Click [here](#) to view.

1. Ted Shaffrey is shot with a rubber bullet while covering protests against the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on May 30, 2020.

2. People protested against a proposed Islamic Community Center in the World Trade Center area of New York on September 11, 2010. I was wearing an AP press ID with my name on it.

3. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump singles out the media covering him for criticism at a campaign event in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, on May 19, 2016.

4. People surround me in Borough Park, Brooklyn, New York, while I'm trying to shoot a story about an uptick in coronavirus cases in the neighborhood on October 7, 2020.

5. Ted is hit with tear gas while covering protests against the police in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 18, 2014.

6. Police spray pepper spray at Ted while covering a protest against police in Ferguson, Missouri, on August 10, 2015.

7. The family of a man who killed eight coworkers at a beer distributor in Hartford, Connecticut, throw water at Ted and his camera on August 4, 2010.

(In another instance I had a gun pulled on me by the father of a student who was injured in the school shooting in Chardon, Ohio, in February 2012. I knocked on the door of their home and he pointed the handgun at me through a window in the door and demanded to know what I was there for. He was irate and I don't think he understood I was with the media. His daughter was still in the hospital. I was not recording with my video camera because I usually wait and ask if I can interview people when door knocking NIRC addresses. I immediately left the premises, unharmed.)

## Cattle Class



**Peter Leabo** ([Email](#)) - Media on a MAC C-130 flight to Grenada in 1983. It was 37 years ago that I hopped a military transport from Barbados to cover the Grenada conflict. Without any electricity or phone lines on Grenada, I had to cover the conflict all day, hop a military flight back to Barbados in the evening, process film and transmit photos all night (60rpm FM for those who know), and hop another transport to Grenada in the morning. For the first week, the only sleep was on the transport aircraft and meals were "borrowed" rations or whatever my cab driver on Grenada (whose children we put through college with the rate he charged!) could find. It was the only time I ever submitted a time sheet for 161 hours in a week and was paid without question. IDs appreciated!

I was AP's Kansas City-based photographer at the time and this photo was from one of more than 20 military flights to/from Grenada/Barbados. I learned that if you unhooked the right combination of those clips from that overhead bar for the fancy nylon web "seats" you could actually get your head in a position where you could sleep for an hour.

## Connecting mailbox

***We're fortunate Gene and the other contributors are still here to share their stories***

**Peggy Walsh** ([Email](#)) - The stories of threats of personal harm in the line of duty have been fascinating and humbling.

I am particularly struck by the memories of Gene Herrick. Although we've never met, he and I long ago become email friends through Connecting. His memory is phenomenal and the breadth of his history with AP is captivating.

As I wrote him Friday, his close calls were riveting and a history lesson for us all.

We're fortunate he and the other contributors are still here to share their stories.

-0-

## ***A pox on the polls?***

**Norm Abelson (Email)** - Short of doing away with them, the mountain of polls that pollutes the political atmosphere may serve best when ignored, or taken with grain of salt. At least that has been true in my experience.

It was more than a half-century ago, and my boss – a United States senator – was running for re-election. He had broken through a string of Republicans to become the first Democrat in the state to make it to the Senate in more than thirty years.

Even back then, campaigns were hiring polling firms to constantly test the waters. The senator's re-election prospects were by no means certain, so he asked quite often to see the results. My pal Jim, the senator's chief of staff, and I decided it was not in the senator's best interests to show him too many polling results – positive ones might make him too self-confident, negative ones make him feel nervous. So we hid a good number of them from him.

Many of the polls we hid turned out to have been away off base. Anyway, the senator easily won re-election.

Several years later, a friend of mine was running for the U.S. Senate. He had distain for polling, and instead had put together about 10 of us into an unofficial group of advisors who could tell it to him like it is. We'd meet every Sunday morning and report to him. He would want to know what we heard on the street, at the neighborhood bar, at work, the union halls, the churches, the veterans meeting places. Then he would ask us how he was doing – and there was no filter on how we could reply. No matter how tough the critiques, he'd listen and take notes. "I trust you folks, and I don't trust the polls," he'd tell us. He got elected.

I'm not suggesting doing away with all polling, but rather ratcheting it down and giving it less import. Perhaps Biden folks would have put in more effort, and the president-elect might have won by a larger margin, if the polls predicting easy wins for him in this election had been given less credibility (or maybe, better yet, set fire to).

Incidentally, we just took a poll in my house about what the residents might wish to have for supper. Both of the respondents, saying they were “damned tired” of home cooking, leaned strongly toward take-out pizza. The poll proved 100 per cent accurate.

-0-

## *AP Stylebook reference*

**Steve Graham** ([Email](#)) – From Therese Bottomly, Editor and Vice President of Content, The Oregonian/OregonLive:

Q: Is it just me, or did the print edition headline “Southern, eastern parts of the state see less job losses” affect other people like fingernails grating across a blackboard? Yes, I went to school a long time ago, but I do note a lot of recent sloppiness around the use of “less” and “fewer,” so maybe something has changed that I don’t know about.

A: Not just you! I think I heard the groans of every former copy editor and English teacher in the metro area. We do try to adhere to Associated Press style, which says “use fewer for individual items, less for bulk or quantity.”

-0-

## *Connecting rainbow shot – Australia*



**Carl Robinson (Email)** - Double Rainbow at day's end after a couple storms here on the NSW South Coast but shifted to a brilliant single one. Too big for one picture! The Illawarra Escarpment on left with Mt Kembla in near-distance.

### *Best of the Week*

## Count every vote, call the winners and report fast, accurate election news: There's an AP for that



AP Photo/Brynn Anderson

Coverage of U.S. elections is one of the AP's most crucial missions, carried out in a sprawling but hyper-meticulous operation that stretches company-wide and brings order and clarity to the nation's patchwork voting system. It's a public service that predates the Civil War, going back to the 1848 contest when the AP declared Zachary Taylor president. In 2020, in an election cycle upended by a steady stream of disinformation and a global pandemic, the AP built on 172 years of election experience and delivered stories, photos, videos and graphics in innovative ways that didn't just tell the story of who won, but why as well.

In each state and in Washington, D.C., race callers and news staffers worked in tandem to determine the winners of not only the presidential contest, but governorships, Congressional seats, ballot initiatives and more. In Pennsylvania, the state that tipped

the contest in Joe Biden's favor, the call was made Saturday after days of painstaking work to determine the scope of outstanding votes.

The complexity of the vote, happening amid a pandemic and white-hot partisan feuding, was brought together by senior writers and editors in compelling main stories and deeply knowledgeable analyses.

Once vote counts started coming in, our customers quickly gravitated to a new feature called Explainer that offered contextual looks at the reasons behind race calls for each state. Amid unfounded allegations of fraud, these brought greater transparency to AP's race-calling decisions and the electoral process when it has never mattered more.

Read more [here](#).

### *Best of the States*

## Tenacious source work leads to national newsbreak on census fraud



Former census taker Pam Roberts poses for a portrait at her home in Lafayette, Ind., Nov. 6, 2020. Roberts said she was instructed to fill out information about households even if she had not talked to any of the residents. Her supervisor wanted her "to fill it out and make up names and put it down as a refusal," Roberts said. "I did this from outside the house." She closed about two dozen cases that way. AP PHOTO / AJ MAST

The on-the-record accounts from two census workers were stunning: They had falsified records in the 2020 headcount amid the Trump administration's push to bring the census to an end. One even said she made up answers while in her car outside homes because the mobile device used for the count could track where a person was when making data entry.

Whom did they reveal this to? Not surprisingly, Florida-based reporter Mike Schneider, one of the nation's foremost census reporters.

The two workers' stories, since echoed by others who have reached out to Schneider, showed that U.S. Census Bureau supervisors were more interested in speed than accuracy — so much so that they were willing to encourage workers to commit fraud. Complementing Schneider's story were images by Boston photographer Elise Amendola and Indianapolis freelancer AJ Mast, both of whom mobilized to get portraits of the two census workers who shared their stories.

Read more [here](#).

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Owen Ullmann - [owenullmann@gmail.com](mailto:owenullmann@gmail.com)

*And (with apologies) a few days late to...*

Joe Galloway - [jlgalloway2@yahoo.com](mailto:jlgalloway2@yahoo.com)

## Stories of interest

***Omar Jimenez, a former Northwestern basketball walk-on and journalism student, has a 'front-row seat' to history as a CNN correspondent*** (Chicago Tribune)

By SHANNON RYAN  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



As a middle-schooler who played basketball and baseball near Atlanta, Omar Jimenez loved watching Stuart Scott as an ESPN “SportsCenter” anchor.

Jimenez dreamed about being a sports broadcaster, introducing highlights with a Scott-like flair.

“The appeal (of journalism) really became that I can have an ability to learn about the world firsthand that I don’t think I could get in any other industry,” he said. “As I got older and was pursuing that path, (Scott) was someone who came to mind. Maybe I can find a way to incorporate myself into the way I tell the news.”

After training at Northwestern’s Medill School of Journalism, where he was a walk-on with the basketball team from 2011-13, Jimenez’s voice now tells America’s most compelling stories from sites of wildfires, hurricanes, COVID-19 hot spots and civil unrest in the streets as a CNN correspondent.

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

-0-

## ***Trump’s media favorites battle for the Trump trophy***

(Politico)

By TINA NGUYEN

MAGA nation may be turning its back on Fox News — but it doesn’t know where to go.

Parler, the “free speech”-friendly version of Twitter, saw a massive explosion of growth right after the election — only to be hit with a viral claim that the social media platform was owned by George Soros. QAnon supporters revolted against Newsmax, a conservative cable channel owned by Trump confidant Chris Ruddy, after the network used a photo of a man wearing a hoodie to describe a white nationalist. Nationalist blogs began running hit pieces on Fox News, claiming its viewership was down, and Trump, reportedly mulling his own media enterprise when he leaves the White House, claimed that its ratings had “collapsed,” because “they forgot the Golden Goose.”

While Fox News still easily bests newer networks like Newsmax in viewership, a Newsmax show on Thursday night drew more than 1 million viewers for the first time, according to Nielsen TV ratings. And since Fox News network committed the ultimate heresy — being the first to declare Biden had flipped Arizona, and later acknowledging Biden’s victory — the network’s disenchanted viewers may now be up for grabs.

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

-0-

## ***How Western media would cover the U.S. election if it happened in another country*** (Washington Post)

**Opinion by Karen Attiah**  
Global Opinions editor

*If we talked about the election in the United States the same way we talk about elections in a foreign country, here's how Western media would cover it. Many of those quoted in the "story" below are fictional.*

The United States, the former British colony already rocked this year by ethnic conflict and mass protests over extrajudicial killings by police, may finally have a new leader after weeks of political turmoil following a disputed presidential election.

In the midst of the divisive election, the United States, known for its Dunkin' Donuts-powered economy and for exporting its own brand of democracy, has been devastated by the covid-19 pandemic, which the beleaguered regime of Donald Trump has been unable to control, causing more than 240,000 Americans to die.

Ahead of the election — which triggered accusations of fraud and exposed the country's dysfunctional electoral system — experts had warned that the United States, whose population is awash with guns, was at risk for political violence. But there's been a tense calm as official results confirm that opposition challenger Joe Biden won; Trump, however, is refusing to leave power, and there are fears that the fractured nation might be pushed over the edge, destabilizing the Western Hemisphere.

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

## **The Final Word**

***18,000 preparing for WW I***



STANDING TALL Titled "Human Statue of Liberty," this image was taken at Camp Dodge in Iowa and used eighteen thousand men.

Connecting colleague **Ralph Gage** shared this photo with me after spotting online. It shows 18,000 men preparing for war in a training camp at Camp Dodge, in Iowa, in 1918.

**Hal Buell**, former AP director of photos, weighed in with this: Picture was made by Arthur S. Mole, who made a large collection of such photos on subjects like the American flag, the U.S. eagle, Woodrow Wilson, Liberty Bell, Uncle Sam, etc. He used mostly soldiers at various Army installations. He called his work "Living Photographs."

He died in 1983. He was an American citizen of British background. The photos are now in the public domain and you can buy a copy of the Liberty photo for \$36.

## Today in History - Nov. 16, 2020



### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 16, the 321st day of 2020. There are 45 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 16, 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

#### On this date:

In 1776, British troops captured Fort Mifflin in New York during the American Revolution.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1960, Academy Award-winning actor Clark Gable died in Los Angeles at age 59.

In 1970, the Lockheed L-1011 TriStar jetliner went on its first test flight, from Palmdale, Calif.

In 1982, an agreement was announced in the 57th day of a strike by National Football League players.

In 1991, former Louisiana governor Edwin Edwards won a landslide victory in his bid to return to office, defeating State Rep. David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader.

In 2001, investigators found a letter addressed to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., containing anthrax; it was the second letter bearing the deadly germ known to have been sent to Capitol Hill.

In 2004, President George W. Bush picked National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to be his new secretary of state, succeeding Colin Powell.

In 2006, Democrats embraced Nancy Pelosi as the first female House speaker in history, but then selected Steny Hoyer as majority leader against her wishes.

In 2017, Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken became the first member of Congress to be caught up in a wave of allegations of sexual abuse and inappropriate behavior, after a Los Angeles radio anchor accused him of forcibly kissing her and groping her during a 2006 USO tour. (Franken eventually resigned from the Senate.)

In 2018, a U.S. official said intelligence officials had concluded that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had ordered the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi (jah-MAHL' khahr-SHOHK'-jee). A federal judge ordered the Trump administration to immediately return the White House press credentials of CNN reporter Jim Acosta.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, the first living service member from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars to receive the nation's top military award. U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel was convicted on 11 of 13 charges related to financial misconduct, prompting fellow lawmakers to censure the 80-year-old New York Democrat. The engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton was announced in London. Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen, 64, was shot to death in her car on Sunset Boulevard. (Police believe the killer was Harold Martin Smith, who took his own life when confronted by officers.) Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies unanimously won the NL Cy Young Award.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in Turkey for a meeting of world leaders, conceded that the Paris terror attacks were a "terrible and sickening setback" in the fight against the Islamic State, but forcefully dismissed critics who had called for the U.S. to change or expand its military campaign against the extremists. Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant was a unanimous pick as NL Rookie of the Year, and Houston Astros shortstop Carlos Correa was voted the AL honor. Actor David Canary, 77, died in Wilton, Connecticut.

One year ago: Transcripts released in the impeachment inquiry showed Ambassador Gordon Sondland playing a central role in President Donald Trump's effort to push Ukraine to conduct political investigations as a condition for receiving needed military aid. Trump went to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center for what he later described as a "very routine physical"; it had not been on Trump's public schedule, raising suspicions about the president's health. At the last minute, former San

San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick skipped a workout arranged by the NFL at the Atlanta Falcons' training complex to which all 32 teams had been invited, and instead held a workout on a high school field 60 miles away, open to the media. (The NFL had scheduled its workout after Kaepernick claimed that the league had blackballed him for kneeling in protest during the national anthem.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Clu Gulager is 92. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 85. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 81. Actor Joanna Pettet is 78. Actor Steve Railsback is 75. Actor David Leisure is 70. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 69. Actor Marg Helgenberger is 62. Rock musician Mani is 58. Country singer-musician Keith Burns (Trick Pony) is 57. Former pro tennis player Zina Garrison is 57. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 56. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 56. Actor Harry Lennix is 56. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 54. Actor Lisa Bonet (boh-NAY') is 53. Actor Tammy Lauren is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 51. Actor Martha Plimpton is 50. Actor Michael Irby is 48. Actor Missi Pyle is 48. Rock musician Corey McCormick (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 44. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul (ahk-SAH'-nah by-OOL') is 43. Actor Maggie Gyllenhaal (JIHL'-ehn-hahl) is 43. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 41. Former NBA player Amare Stoudemire (ah-MAR'-ay STOW'-duh-my-ur) is 38. Actor Kimberly J. Brown is 36. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 32. Actor-comedian Pete Davidson (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 27. Actor Casey Moss is 27. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 25.

## Got a story or photos to share?

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

Here are some suggestions:

- **Second chapters** - You finished a great career. Now tell us about your second (and third and fourth?) chapters of life.

- **Spousal support** - How your spouse helped in supporting your work during your AP career.

- **My most unusual story** - tell us about an unusual, off the wall story that you covered.

- **"A silly mistake that you make"** - a chance to 'fess up with a memorable mistake in your journalistic career.

- **Multigenerational AP families** - profiles of families whose service spanned two or more generations.



- **Volunteering** - benefit your colleagues by sharing volunteer stories - with ideas on such work they can do themselves.

- **First job** - How did you get your first job in journalism?

- **Connecting "selfies"** - a word and photo self-profile of you and your career, and what you are doing today. Both for new members and those who have been with us a while.

- **Most unusual** place a story assignment took you.

**Paul Stevens**

**Editor, Connecting newsletter**

**paulstevens46@gmail.com**

Visit our website