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## Connecting December 21, 2020

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Colleagues,

Good Monday morning on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 2020,

There are 10 days remaining in this memorable year of 2020 – a year unlike no other as the coronavirus pandemic continues to take its toll amid hope that the newly authorized vaccine will start to turn the tide.

Want to share how your life was changed during 2020? I would welcome hearing from you – and we lead off this new series with stories shared by our colleagues **Adolphe Bernotas** and **Gene Herrick**. Your text and photos would be welcomed.

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

Paul

# Friends, think positive but stay negative



**Marguerite Orazi and Adolphe Bernotas with his baseball glove at their very last Red Sox spring training game in Port Charlotte in March as the plague was descending on Florida, a few days before they fled to New Hampshire.**

**Adolphe Bernotas ([Email](#))** - While existing under near-house arrest in the pandemic, Marguerite and I accomplished a major task in 2020 – downsized again! Sold house on Dunklee Street, bought condo in Lower Penacook (still in Concord) and a few days after the closing, hit the road for Florida in November.

Marguerite began 2020 in a bocce league and dancing to perform in the Follies, exercising with Adolphe in pool classes and volunteering at the Venice Performing Arts Center.

Then the Covid conflagration incinerated our routines and pleasures. Trips to New York and Washington on retiree union business gone. Most trips to New York State and the Berkshires in Massachusetts for ballet, music and friends gone. Ballroom dancing? Fuggetaboutit! Panama Canal cruise postponed until 2022. (A welcome gift on TV has been the Metropolitan Opera's nightly streams of six decades of performances).

But we got to a Red Sox spring training game and organized a Mardi Gras dance for our community in North Port before the world was shut down and we sprinted north. In New Hampshire, we decided to shoehorn ourselves into a two-bedroom, two-bathroom ground-floor (only one step) condo with a back yard whose maintenance we take glee in ignoring from our patio.

Despite trips to Goodwill, lots of overage sits in storage until we jettison stuff in cardboard boxes forgotten for decades.

In New Hampshire and the Petri dish that is Florida, we Zoom and visit with neighbors and friends on front lawns and back yards, socially distanced and masked, bringing our own drinks and snacks, but it ain't the same without human hugs.

Our Florida 55-plus community of 600 houses so far has had but two cases of the plague, one of them fatal. Few scaled-down activities in which we normally partake are available, but Adolphe (prime medical candidate for ICU ventilators) and Marguerite have been sticking to biking. We are fearfully careful to stay alive as we await the vaccine. Marguerite hopes for a few friends in our Florida yard to celebrate a safe 80th birthday for Adolphe in March.

Until post-pandemia dawns, we cherish in being retired, worry-free of working from home, children in school, being jobless or hungry; and close with Adolphe's usual thank-you to his union for our pension; FDR for Social Security; HST, JFK and LBJ for Medicare; and BHO for affordable health care for our middle class retirement.

Meantime, dear friends and family, think positive but stay negative.

## Christmas Memories? Ah, Yes

**Gene Herrick** ([Email](#)) - The Christmas Season this year seems to be in turmoil, fear, and apprehension. We and the peoples of the world are fighting a war of poverty, homelessness, sickness and death from the world-wide virus attack, and political upheaval in this country.

However, memories of Christmas seemingly never go away. Some are loving; some warm, but sad because of a missing family member. Some of us have had Christmas season memories that are weird and funny.

My memories have always been lovingly and warm. This year, of course, has been spent isolated from everybody because of the virus bug. While in my isolation today, rocking in my memory chair, I reminisced about Christmas 1950 in Seattle, WA. just after I returned from Korea, where I served as an AP War Correspondent and Photographer.

I was temporarily living in the Roosevelt Hotel. I went across the street to a florist who was selling big Christmas trees. I wanted a small tree. The florist, apparently a Frenchman, argued he only had the big trees. He and I, while discussing the matter on the sidewalk, drew a crowd. While arguing price and size, I walked a couple of doors up the street to cash a check. While there, I witnessed a "Pimp" trying to educate a would-be prostitute. Interesting.

I returned to the florist. Half angrily, he got a saw and cut one of the big Christmas trees in half. The street crowd roared and clapped. I paid him, picked up my smaller tree, and headed across the street to the hotel. Immediately, I realized I might want some tree boughs to decorate the hotel room. Returning to the florist, he angrily gave me the bottom of the tree he had just cut, and, for free.

In my room, I set up the small tree, and used the bows to decorate. Removing the little elongated bed lamp, I covered it with red cellophane, and then hung No.5 flashbulbs that I had painted red. for ornaments.

Got a couple of bottles of Hooch out, and called the hotel manager. He locked the front door, gathered his staff, locked the elevator on my floor, and we had a Christmas party.

That is my most memorable Christmas.

## Merry Christmas

**Norm Abelson** ([Email](#)) - Every winter at this special time of the year a Scrooge-like controversy begins to appear. Shall we wish Merry Christmas to friends on their day, or instead say a politically correct Happy Holiday?

While Christmas is a time that I don't celebrate, in other folks' happiness I'll gladly participate. So I say to the generalists, both far and wide, your dour injunction I will never abide.

To my friends and their mothers,  
to their sisters and brothers,  
while my Chanukah candles burn bright,  
Merry Christmas to you in your season of light.

## Uncovering a WWII story of my dad and fellow Marine (and Pulitzer winner) Keyes Beech

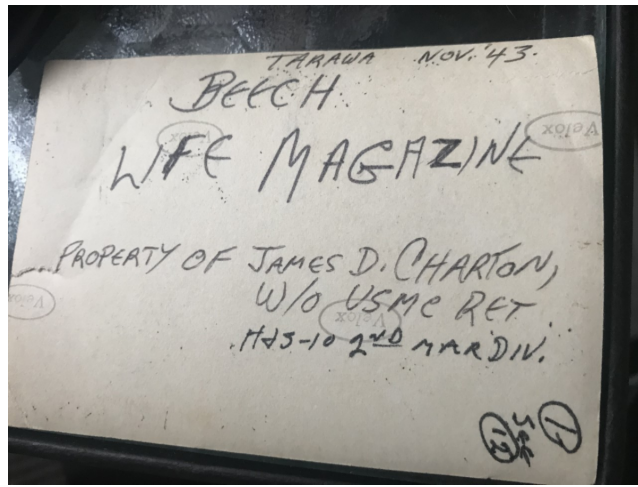


**Keyes Beech - my dad's buddy in the war**

**Scott Charton ([Email](#))** - Since my mom died Nov. 18 at age 96, we've been going through old papers and photos. I came across several

black-and-white pictures from my dad's World War II service.

For my eldest brother J.J. - shown with my mom and dad in photo below while dad was on home leave and who was born while Dad was serving with the 2nd Marine Division in the South Pacific - one picture brought back a few foggy memories based on comments by Dad. The outdoor photo shows a man in a helmet at a typewriter.



The back of the picture, in Dad's familiar handwriting, says: "Tarawa Nov. '43 BEECH LIFE MAGAZINE." My brother recognized the helmeted man as a combat correspondent with whom Dad shared a tent at Tarawa Atoll in the Gilbert Islands: "Dad said 'Beech' was his 'roommate' and buddy in the war."

I don't recall ever seeing the picture. Like many veterans, Dad never talked much about his war experiences. So I can only imagine his encounters and adventures with "Beech." But I sure am curious. I started searching online with various terms including "Beech."

It didn't take me long to find Marine Tech Sgt. Keyes Beech, a combat correspondent who worked many years for the Chicago Daily News, among other organizations. Sgt. Beech was at Tarawa in November 1943. He won the 1951 Pulitzer Prize for Korean War reporting. I also found Keyes Beech depicted in the Clint Eastwood film "Flags of Our Fathers," as well as the nonfiction book of the same name by Jack Bradley and Ron Powers. It's the story of the men who raised the American flag at Iwo Jima. Beech accompanied three of the men on a much-promoted war bonds tour, which is depicted in the movie.

The New York Times' Feb. 16, 1990, obituary by John T. McQuiston: "Keyes Beech, who for many years was a foreign correspondent in Asia and won a Pulitzer Prize in 1951 for his reporting on the Korean War, died yesterday of emphysema at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington. He was 76 years old and lived in Bethesda, Md.

"Mr. Beech (whose first name rhymed with size) covered Asia for five decades, first as a combat correspondent after joining the Marine Corps in 1942. His last post



was in Bangkok, where he served as a correspondent for The Los Angeles Times until his retirement seven years ago.

“During World War II, he was with the Second Marine Division when that outfit landed at Tarawa, a coral atoll in the western Pacific. He also was the first correspondent to climb to the top of Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

“He was often at the front line during the fighting in Korea and was at his best describing the adventures of the Marines in the cold of North Korea and of the American prisoners of war who had been brainwashed by the Chinese.

“After the Korean War, he was assigned to Tokyo and reported on all of Indochina. He was in Saigon during the early involvement of the United States in Vietnam. In the mid-1960's he moved to Saigon, and he maintained a residence there until the American departure.

“He covered the Vietnam War from the beginning to the end. During the Tet offensive in 1968, he was among the first Americans to see that the offensive was a military victory for the United States and the South Vietnamese, but a political defeat in the United States because of the doubts it raised about American involvement in Vietnam. ...”

The ashes of Keyes Beech are interred in a columbarium at Arlington National Cemetery.

Now I want to learn more about this character Keyes Beech, assuming he's the “Beech” in the uncredited photo, if only to ponder how he may have interacted with a skinny kid from Arkansas as they shared a small space on a faraway spot in the Pacific where others died and they survived.

I wonder if any of our Connecting colleagues encountered Keyes Beech and care to share their memories? I'd be grateful for any perspectives if folks want to an email to [scottcharton@gmail.com](mailto:scottcharton@gmail.com)

## Connecting mailbox

***Tennis court named for former AP newsman Jerry Nachtigal***



One of the courts at the Huether Family Match Pointe tennis center in Sioux Falls, S.D., is dedicated to Jerry Nachtigal, a former Connecting colleague who worked for the AP for 19 years in Aberdeen, Kansas City, Springfield (Mo.) and Phoenix. Jerry was a senior vice president of public affairs for Citibank in Sioux Falls when he died of cancer in 2017 at the age of 57. Jerry's wife Ann ([Email](#)) said his former employer Citibank was the main sponsor to get this facility built. "Jerry was the champion for that," she said. "He came up against some resistance but kept fighting!" The photo above of his court shows the center's executive director Mark Vellek and the Tuesday morning 3.0 Women's Game Improvement Drill Group.

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## *Snoozing Snoopy*





**Chris Connell** ([Email](#)) - Snoopy snoozing atop a neighbor's shed in Alexandria, Va. Classier than the fat inflatables spreading like Bermuda grass across lawns.

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## *Who's Rod Carew?*

**Larry Margasak** ([Email](#)) - You can always learn something new at holiday time. Wasn't it in Connecting's book review edition that I learned Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song (I use that spelling) got it wrong when singing about Rod Carew?

O.J. Simpson: not a Jew  
But guess who is?: Hall-of-famer Rod Carew (he converted)

His own autobiography pointed out his first wife was Jewish and he embraced the religion, but he never converted. I used this new knowledge to educate members of my synagogue in several Zoom meetings. I'm sure the reactions ranged from shock to "Who's Rod Carew?"

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## *Connecting sky shot - Monument Lake, Colorado*



**Michael Weinfeld** ([Email](#)) - I took this photo while walking our dog on the ice at Monument Lake with the sun setting behind Mt. Herman on December 19. The lake is just steps away from our house in Monument, Colorado.

### *Best of the Week*

**AP analysis and reporting: Millions of hungry Americans turn to food banks for 1st time**



AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast

Long lines of people and queues of traffic seemed to indicate that the use of food banks was on the rise in the U.S. as the COVID-19 pandemic hit home. But a team of AP journalists was determined to get to the facts behind the assumptions and tell the stories of those relying on handouts — many for the first time.

Working with exclusive data from anti-hunger association Feeding America, the AP team delivered an accurate, powerful picture of food insecurity and economic distress in the U.S.

Read more [here](#).

### *Best of the States*

**All-formats team tells the shared story of rural Missouri churches, immigrants, adversity and faith**



AP Photo/Jessie Wardarski

It's a story of two churches in rural Missouri, only 30 miles apart — and worlds apart.

One congregation is mostly white, while the other offers services in five languages with members from around the world. The pandemic has united them, with pastors meeting every week to support each other, share ideas and figure out how to continue ministering as Missouri increasingly struggles with overburdened intensive care units and rocketing case numbers.

The New York-based team of national writer David Crary, youth and religion reporter Luis Andres Henao and video journalist Jessie Wardarski produced an all-formats package that seamlessly integrated this ethnic, racial, geographic and economic diversity, shining a light on communities that aren't famous American places but are integral to the nation's identity.

Read more [here](#).

## Stories of interest

***What Journalists Can — and Can't — Do about Media Distrust*** (Nieman Reports)



**A Trump supporter holds up a T-shirt blasting "fake news" so media could see before a rally address by President Donald Trump in October 2018, in Rochester, Minnesota Jim Mone/AP News**

**By ISAAC J. BAILEY**

There is a significant percentage of Americans who will always distrust us no matter how well our pieces are written, how compelling our broadcasts, how high the stack of documents buttressing the claims in our reports. Even if we found a way to be perfect — and we haven't been perfect, not even close — that wouldn't change.

Acknowledging that truth isn't a call to mock or ignore or dehumanize those in this camp, but a reminder that journalists should focus on improving the quality of our work rather than being distracted by things over which we have little control.

While we shouldn't dismiss surveys showing the public's distrust in media increasing, we should give them as much credence as we do surveys asking the public about their confidence in the economy. Less than half of the public has had at least a "fair amount" of trust in the media for the past decade and a half, according to Gallup, down from the more than two-thirds who had that level of trust in the 1970s. Democrats trust the media more than Republicans.

Read more [here](#).

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## ***New York Times: 'Caliphate' podcast didn't meet standards*** (AP)

By DAVID BAUDER

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Times admitted Friday that it could not verify the claims of a Canadian man whose account of committing atrocities for the Islamic State in Syria was a central part of its 2018 podcast "Caliphate."

The series had won a Peabody Award, the first ever for a podcast produced by the newspaper, but within hours administrators said the Times would return the award. The Overseas Press Club of America said it was rescinding its honor for "Caliphate."

With a major hole blown in the narrative, the Times affixed an audio correction to the beginning of each part of the 12-part podcast and published an investigation into what went wrong with the story in Friday's newspaper. The story's central reporter, Rukmini Callimachi, will be reassigned off the terrorism beat, the Times said.

Dean Baquet, the paper's executive editor, said in a podcast distributed Friday that "this failing wasn't about any one reporter. I think this was an institutional failing."

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

Click [here](#) for New York Times story. Shared by Dennis Conrad.

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## ***University of Texas names Medals for News and Guts after Dan Rather*** (Austin American-Statesman)

By Michael Barnes

The University of Texas has named a pair of journalism awards after Dan Rather, Austin's most famous journalist.

The Dan Rather Medals for News and Guts will go out to "collegiate and professional journalists who overcome obstacles like stonewalling and harassment to speak truth to power," according to a statement from UT's Moody College of Communication and the School of Journalism and Media.

The annual awards will "honor relentless reporting as well as exceptional content including text, audio, broadcast or graphics," the statement continues.

Each winner will receive \$5,000. “It has never been more important to encourage courage,” Rather said when the awards were announced. “The hope is that these medals will help lift up journalists who risk it all to tell tough truths.”

Read more [here](#).

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## ***Washington Post to add more than 150 jobs next year, bringing newsroom to record size*** (The Hill)

BY CELINE CASTRONUOVO

The Washington Post plans to add more than 150 jobs to its newsroom next year, bringing its total staff to a record high of more than 1,000, the newspaper confirmed to The Hill on Thursday.

The New York Times’s Ben Smith first reported the additions on Twitter on Thursday.

Reached for comment, Post spokesperson Molly Gannon Conway confirmed the number but did not provide any additional details on the staff increase at the outlet owned by Amazon CEO and tech billionaire Jeff Bezos.

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

## **The Final Word**

### ***The truth in Black and white: An apology from The Kansas City Star***



BY MIKE FANNIN  
 President and Editor, The Kansas City Star

Today we are telling the story of a powerful local business that has done wrong.

For 140 years, it has been one of the most influential forces in shaping Kansas City and the region. And yet for much of its early history — through sins of both commission and omission — it disenfranchised, ignored and scorned generations of Black Kansas Citians. It reinforced Jim Crow laws and redlining. Decade after early decade it robbed an entire community of opportunity, dignity, justice and recognition.

That business is The Kansas City Star.

Before I say more, I feel it to be my moral obligation to express what is in the hearts and minds of the leadership and staff of an organization that is nearly as old as the city it loves and covers:

We are sorry.

Read more [here](#).

## Today in History - Dec. 21, 2020





## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Dec. 21, the 356th day of 2020. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter arrives at 5:02 a.m. Eastern time.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Massachusetts.

### On this date:

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union forces led by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman concluded their "March to the Sea" as they captured Savannah, Georgia.

In 1913, the first newspaper crossword puzzle, billed as a "Word-Cross Puzzle," was published in the New York World.

In 1914, the U.S. government began requiring passport applicants to provide photographs of themselves.

In 1940, author F. Scott Fitzgerald died in Hollywood, California, at age 44.

In 1942, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Williams v. North Carolina*, ruled 6-2 that all states had to recognize divorces granted in Nevada.

In 1945, U.S. Army Gen. George S. Patton, 60, died in Heidelberg, Germany, 12 days after being seriously injured in a car accident.

In 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1969, Vince Lombardi coached his last football game as his team, the Washington Redskins, lost to the Dallas Cowboys, 20-10.

In 1988, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded aboard a Pam Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

In 1991, eleven of the 12 former Soviet republics proclaimed the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the death of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

In 1995, the city of Bethlehem passed from Israeli to Palestinian control.

In 2012, the National Rifle Association said guns and police officers were needed in all American schools to stop the next killer “waiting in the wings,” taking a no-retreat stance in the face of growing calls for gun control after the Newtown, Connecticut, shootings that claimed the lives of 26 children and school staff.

Ten years ago: The Census Bureau announced that the nation’s population on April 1, 2010, was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade earlier. A divided Federal Communications Commission approved, 3-2, new rules known as “net neutrality” meant to prohibit broadband companies from interfering with Internet traffic flowing to their customers. The No. 1-ranked Connecticut women’s basketball team topped the 88-game winning streak by John Wooden’s UCLA men’s team from 1971-74, beating No. 22 Florida State 93-62. Chip Kelly, in just his second season leading Oregon, was voted AP Coach of the Year.

Five years ago: A Taliban attacker rammed a bomb-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO and Afghan patrol near the Bagram Airfield, killing six Americans in the deadliest attack on foreign troops since the previous August. The nation’s three-decade-old ban on blood donations from gay and bisexual men was formally lifted, but major restrictions continued to limit who could give blood in the U.S. Clemson’s Dabo Swinney was named The Associated Press college football coach of the year.

One year ago: Joseph Segel, founder of the home-shopping network QVC, died in Pennsylvania; he was 88. Six people died and 13 others were injured in a fire at an apartment building in downtown Las Vegas. French fashion designer Emanuel Ungaro, known for his use of vibrant color, mixed prints and elegant draping, died in Paris at the age of 86.

Today’s Birthdays: Talk show host Phil Donahue is 85. Actor Jane Fonda is 83. Actor Larry Bryggman is 82. Singer Carla Thomas is 78. Musician Albert Lee is 77. Conductor Michael Tilson Thomas is 76. Actor Josh Mostel is 74. Actor Samuel L. Jackson is 72. Rock singer Nick Gilder is 70. Movie producer Jeffrey Katzenberg is 70. Actor Dennis Boutsikaris is 68. International Tennis Hall of Famer Chris Evert is 66. Actor Jane Kaczmarek is 65. Country singer Lee Roy Parnell is 64. Former child actress Lisa Gerritsen is 63. Actor-comedian Ray Romano is 63. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is 58. Country singer Christy Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 58. Rock

musician Murph (The Lemonheads; Dinosaur Jr.) is 56. Actor-comedian Andy Dick is 55. Rock musician Gabrielle Glaser is 55. Actor Michelle Hurd is 54. Actor Kiefer Sutherland is 54. Actor Karri Turner is 54. Actor Khristyne Haje is 52. Country singer Brad Warren (The Warren Brothers) is 52. Actor Julie Delpy is 51. Contemporary Christian singer Natalie Grant is 49. Actor Glenn Fitzgerald is 49. Singer-musician Brett Scallions is 49. World Golf Hall of Famer Karrie Webb is 46. Rock singer Lukas Rossi (Rock Star Supernova) is 44. Actor Rutina Wesley is 42. Rock musician Anna Bulbrook (Airborne Toxic Event) is 38. Country singer Luke Stricklin is 38. Actor Steven Yeun is 37. Actor Kaitlyn Dever is 24.

## 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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