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Connecting
December 31, 2020

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'Toast to the ones here today,' 'Toast to the ones that we lost on the way'

Good Thursday morning on this the 31st day of December 2020,

In Connecting's final issue of 2020, we remember our colleagues who died during the past year.

The list of names below was compiled from the records of AP's Human Resources department and from Connecting issues over the past year. If you see an error or omission in this list, please let me know.

In the final issue of 2019, I wished you a happy and safe New Year's Eve and good health and happiness in the coming year. Little did any of us know what 2020 was to bring.

I doubt any of us escaped 2020 without having someone close to us stricken by the coronavirus, and some of those listed below died from COVID-19 – including **Nick Jesdanun**, longtime AP technology writer in New York (above), who died in early April of complications from the virus. He was believed to be the first AP active-duty employee to die of the virus.



We mourn their deaths but we remember the words of Dr. Seuss when we think about how they touched us and the world of journalism:
"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."

There's a favorite song of mine, by a favorite group – **"Memories", by Maroon Five** – that ran through my head as I compiled this listing. It goes:

*Here's to the ones that we got
 Cheers to the wish you were here, but you're not
 'Cause the drinks bring back all the memories
 Of everything we've been through
 Toast to the ones here today
 Toast to the ones that we lost on the way
 'Cause the drinks bring back all the memories
 And the memories bring back, memories bring back you*

*There's a time that I remember, when I did not know no pain
 When I believed in forever, and everything would stay the same
 Now my heart feel like December when somebody say your name
 'Cause I can't reach out to call you, but I know I will one day, yeah*

*Everybody hurts sometimes
 Everybody hurts someday, ayy ayy
 But everything gon' be alright
 Go and raise a glass and say, ayy*

Connecting will return to your Inbox next Monday. How about sharing your expectations and thoughts for the coming year to give me a head start on the first issue of the new year.

That new year, as a reminder, is the 175th anniversary of the founding of The Associated Press and will give us cause to celebrate. Got an idea for how Connecting can help in that regard?

Happy New Year! Be safe, stay healthy – and thank you for being part of the Connecting family. I know that at least for me, being connected to you has provided a ray of sunshine in this trying year.

Paul

AP



In Memoriam

Nicholas Acocella

Leslie Bascom

Janice Blount

John Bompengo

Lynn Brezosky

Stephen Brodie

Virginia Bryne

Milagros Cardona

Elias Castillo

Bill Chevalier

Marilyn Dillon

James Farrell

Louise Felice

David Fox

Cesar Garcia
Wendell Goler
Victor Golikov
Dan Hamrick
Ronald Harrist
Simon Haydon
Benjamin Howe
Tetsuko Itagaki
Ralph Izard
Nick Jesdanan
Walter Johnson
Walter Lee Jones
Clairisse Jud
Greg Katz
Bill Keating
William Kelly
Robert Kerr
Gary Koehler
Robert Kuesterman
John Kuglin

Joseph Lynn

Karl Mantyla

Gerald McLaughlin

Donald McLeod

David Melendy

George Mikulec

T.G. Moore

Dolores Mulcahey

Dennis Montgomery

John Mullins

Bill Neikirk

Carl Niederman

Erika Niedowski

Alvin Orton Jr.

Kenneth Peters

James Phillips

Kenneth Rappoport

Melvin Reisert

Arthur Rotstein

Jack Scheuer

Benjamin Schiff

Dave Seaton
Karen Seaton
Laura Sellers
Glenn Serafin
Lewis Shaine
Paul Shane
Rodrigo Silva
Thomas Stewart
Steve Stibbens
Hiram Tanke
Karsten Thielker
Seymour Topping
Lester Vigo
Thomas Vint
Frank Wetzel
Joseph Yeninas
Peter Yost
Hank Waters
Frank Wetzel
Bill Williams

George Zucker

Surviving Spouses

Maria Aranguren

Jean Clark

Sammie Crider

Jennie Green

Sharon Hopperstad

Irene Jenkins

Tania Kanthal

Mary King

Paula Krimsky

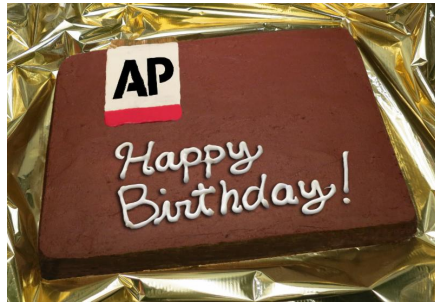
Maria Tasnadi

Irene Peragine

Frances VanKwawegen

-30-

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Pauline Arrillaga - paulinearrillaga@gmail.com

Don Dashiell - lakehaven56@gmail.com

On Friday to...

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Today in History - Dec. 31, 2020



By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 31, the 366th and final day of 2020.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 31, 2019, the health commission in the central Chinese city of Wuhan announced that experts were investigating an outbreak of respiratory illness and that most of the victims had visited a seafood market in the city; the statement said 27 people had become ill with a strain of viral pneumonia and that seven were in serious condition.

On this date:

In 1775, during the Revolutionary War, the British repulsed an attack by Continental Army generals Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold at Quebec; Montgomery was killed.

In 1857, Britain's Queen Victoria decided to make Ottawa the capital of Canada.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an enabling act paving the way for Virginia's western counties to become the state of West Virginia, which took place in June 1863.

In 1879, Thomas Edison first publicly demonstrated his electric incandescent light by illuminating some 40 bulbs at his laboratory in Menlo Park, New Jersey.

In 1904, New York's Times Square saw its first New Year's Eve celebration, with an estimated 200,000 people in attendance.

In 1951, the Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in foreign aid.

In 1972, Major League baseball player Roberto Clemente, 38, was killed when a plane he chartered and was traveling on to bring relief supplies to earthquake-devastated Nicaragua crashed shortly after takeoff from Puerto Rico.

In 1974, private U.S. citizens were allowed to buy and own gold for the first time in more than 40 years.

In 1978, Taiwanese diplomats struck their colors for the final time from the embassy flagpole in Washington, D.C., marking the end of diplomatic relations with the United States.

In 1986, 97 people were killed when fire broke out in the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico. (Three hotel workers later pleaded guilty in connection with the blaze.)

In 1999, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced his resignation (he was succeeded by Vladimir Putin).

In 2001, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani spent his final day in office praising police, firefighters, and other city employees in the wake of 9/11, and said he had no regrets about returning to private life.

Ten years ago: Tornadoes fueled by unusually warm air pummeled the South and Midwest, killing a total of eight people in Arkansas and Missouri.

Five years ago: Belgian authorities announced the arrest of a 10th person in connection with the Nov. 2015 bloodbath in Paris. A towering inferno engulfed a 63-story luxury hotel in Dubai as officials went ahead with a massive New Year's fireworks display (there were no serious injuries reported). Death claimed singer Natalie Cole at age 65; actor Wayne Rogers at age 82; and actor Beth Howland at age 74.

One year ago: Dozens of Iraqi Shiite militiamen and their supporters broke into the U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad and set fire to a reception area; the mob had been angered over deadly U.S. airstrikes targeting the Iranian-backed militia. Pope Francis slapped the hand of a well-wisher who had grabbed him and yanked him toward her as he strolled in St. Peter's Square to admire the Vatican's Nativity scene; the pontiff apologized a day later for his "bad example." Former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn (gohn), who had skipped bail while awaiting trial in Japan on allegations of financial misconduct, surfaced in Lebanon, saying that he had fled to avoid "political persecution." Wall Street finished its best year since 2013; the S&P 500 soared 28.9 percent during 2019, with technology stocks leading the gains.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer George Schlatter is 91. Actor Sir Anthony Hopkins is 83. Actor Tim Considine (TV: "My Three Sons") is 80. Actor Sarah Miles is 79. Actor Barbara Carrera is 79. Rock musician Andy Summers is 78. Actor Sir Ben Kingsley is 77. Producer-director Taylor Hackford is 76. Fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg is 74. Actor Tim Matheson is 73. Pop singer Burton Cummings is 73. Actor Joe Dallesandro is

72. Rock musician Tom Hamilton (Aerosmith) is 69. Actor James Remar is 67. Actor Bebe Neuwirth is 62. Actor Val Kilmer is 61. Singer Paul Westerberg is 61. Actor Don Diamont is 58. Rock musician Ric Ivanisevich (Oleander) is 58. Rock musician Scott Ian (Anthrax) is 57. Actor Gong Li is 55. Author Nicholas Sparks is 55. Actor Lance Reddick is 51. Pop singer Joe McIntyre is 48. Rock musician Mikko Siren (Apocalyptica) is 45. Donald Trump Jr. is 43. Rapper PSY (Park Jae-sang) is 43. Rock musician Bob Bryar is 41. Rock musician Jason Sechrist (Portugal. The Man) is 41. Actor Ricky Whittle is 41. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., is 41. Actor/singer Erich Bergen is 35. DJ/vocalist Drew Taggart (The Chainsmokers) is 31. Olympic gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas 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.**



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