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## Connecting

January 15, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Friday morning on this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021,

Thursday's Connecting brought news of our colleague **Nick Ut** receiving the National Medal of the Arts – the first journalist so honored – in a ceremony at the White House.

He - and four others - were presented the medal by President Donald Trump on Wednesday, just before the U.S. House voted to impeach Trump for a second time. In a first-person story in Newsweek, Ut said he was “sure a lot of people are very upset with me for accepting the medal. But it's my personal life. I'm an old man now, so I'm happy the president gave me an award. I wanted to be here. For me, it's more about receiving an award from a president.”

Overnight, Nick posted on Facebook that he and two

friends were assaulted outside the White House. Here is his post and a photo from the scene:

*Yesterday such great day at White House to get Medal of Arts. Today my friend @MarkEdwardHarrisPhoto go to have dinner with @davidburnettfoto. Outside WhiteHouse we were attacked by drug addict young guy. He knocked me down and hurt my ribs, back and left leg. Same leg I have metal in from mortar in Vietnam War. Maybe break my Leica too. Mark did martial art to defend me. Secret Service so fast to come over and help.*



No further information was immediately available, but Nick was answering some of the hundreds of Facebook posts he received from friends. Keep him and his friends in your prayers. Nick's email is - [nickut72@gmail.com](mailto:nickut72@gmail.com)

We bring you in today's issue the thoughts of colleagues about Nick's decision to accept the medal.

And in a compelling Final Word essay, our colleague **Mark Hamrick** discusses the challenges he faced in the previous year – focused on the death of his father **Dan Hamrick** – like Mark, an AP journalist for part of his career. I commend it to you.

Have a great weekend – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

## Nick Ut presented National Medal of Arts by President Trump



White House photo

***In this polarized time, He was right! He was wrong!  
Amd there ain't no in between!***

**Hal Buell (Email)** - In the unlikely possibility that Connecting readers have missed the point, let me set the stage for this essay by observing that we live in a polarized nation. No surprise there, huh? And let me observe that Nick Ut has felt the sting of the ever-present polarization trap, labeled: I'm right! You're Wrong! And There Ain't No In Between. I use the double negative because I want to emphasize that ...There Ain't No In Between.

Nick, surely the most traveled of retirees, was in Washington, D.C., as President Trump was wondering whether an impeachment vote would make the grade. The president took a few minutes to present a National Medal of Arts Award to Nick. It was bestowed primarily in recognition of his famous photo of a naked child burned by napalm during the Vietnam War but also generally for his body of work that spanned a half century of shooting news photos. The medal is the greatest honor the federal government can bestow on artists and art patrons.

Once Nick's award was widely known, that polarization trap snapped. Many good wishes poured in but some of his friends tossed in comment that Nick should have passed up the honor. Some uttered: Shame on you. How could you? Another asked who is the criminal in the picture with Nick? After all, they said, didn't Bill Belichick, that magician of the 100-yard sideline, refuse to accept a similar although higher level honor from Trump?

I wonder why some of his friends jumped on Nick? Now, I will not tell you my politics. But I wonder how a personal dislike for the president translates to negative feelings about an award to a photographer. Purpose of this unusual (for me) essay is to raise questions...questions others have to answer.

Why don't some commentators, photographers themselves, see the honor that draws positive attention to picture journalism? Only three photographers have been so honored, none of them news shooters.

I ask also, why would Nick pass up Washington, and not accept the award? It was to have been presented early in 2020 long before the nasty events of Jan. 6 in Washington and long before the election snarl. And the president would be the MC. It was, as Nick properly sees it, a personal recognition.

But polarization plays tricks. In the photo, there was Nick, at one time an immigrant in a foreign land, in that new land by his choice, armed only with talent. He polished a promising career, married, raised a family, a symbol, you might say, a kind of Horatio Alger story you might say, an example of American success. Standing alongside Nick is the president and you realize that you are looking at classic irony.

Nick said that he was pleased to receive the honor. He is an old man, he said, and was overjoyed that his work was appreciated. Why would he not attend? Why would he not accept the medal from the messenger whomever and whatever he is? Why does the president's persona transfer negatively to the award recipient?

Anyone who knows Nick knows he is apolitical. He has a single focus...to make pictures. He says he will make pictures and communicate with images as he has since he was 15 and will until his fingers are too painful to push a camera button.

I'm glad for that. He makes our world a better place.

## ***Awards should be on merits of achievement, not who presented them***

**Lyle Price** ([Email](#)) - To my mind, the most important test for a human being is whether they do the best that they can for others. I had never previously heard nor imagined that after Nick had taken the Pulitzer photograph of the wailing child during the Vietnam War, his subsequent move was to have taken the little girl to get medical attention -- and then keep in touch over years. Those actions alone are worth a medal.

I personally think that ribbons, tributes and awards ought to be viewed on the merits of the achievement involved rather than on whom the presenter might happen to be; but I'd say each person ought to let their conscience be their guide in that regard. To my mind, Nick Ut is also an example of how immigrants from around the world have served to make the USA a stronger and more humane nation.

## ***Trump's behavior has nothing to do with well-earned award***

**Wendy Davis Beard (Email)** – in a note to Nick - You won't remember me, but we met briefly in the 1980s (the olden days!) when you came to shoot an image of the sculpture project of Greg Weight at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine on the edge of Harlem. I had seen you in passing before whilst a photo editor in NY at 50 Rockefeller Plaza and had always admired your work from the Vietnam war, included in Moments In Time: the 50th Anniversary of AP Photos book (I was photo editor Hal Buell's photo researcher).

Nothing and no one should take away from your pride and joy in receiving your well-earned award at the White House this week. This tribute has nothing to do with Trump and obviously was planned long before the events of 06 January. I am very sorry you have even had to consider the ramifications of Trump's regrettable behaviour since he lost the election, but it has absolutely nothing to do with you or your well-earned award. What's happened in Washington, although horrific, will fade way - but you will always be the first journalist to receive the National Medal of Arts.

I note you haven't stopped taking remarkable photos, like the one of the bird with a red berry in a recent Connecting newsletter. I think there was another one recently of a full moon over LA with many other fellow photographers jostling for a shot!

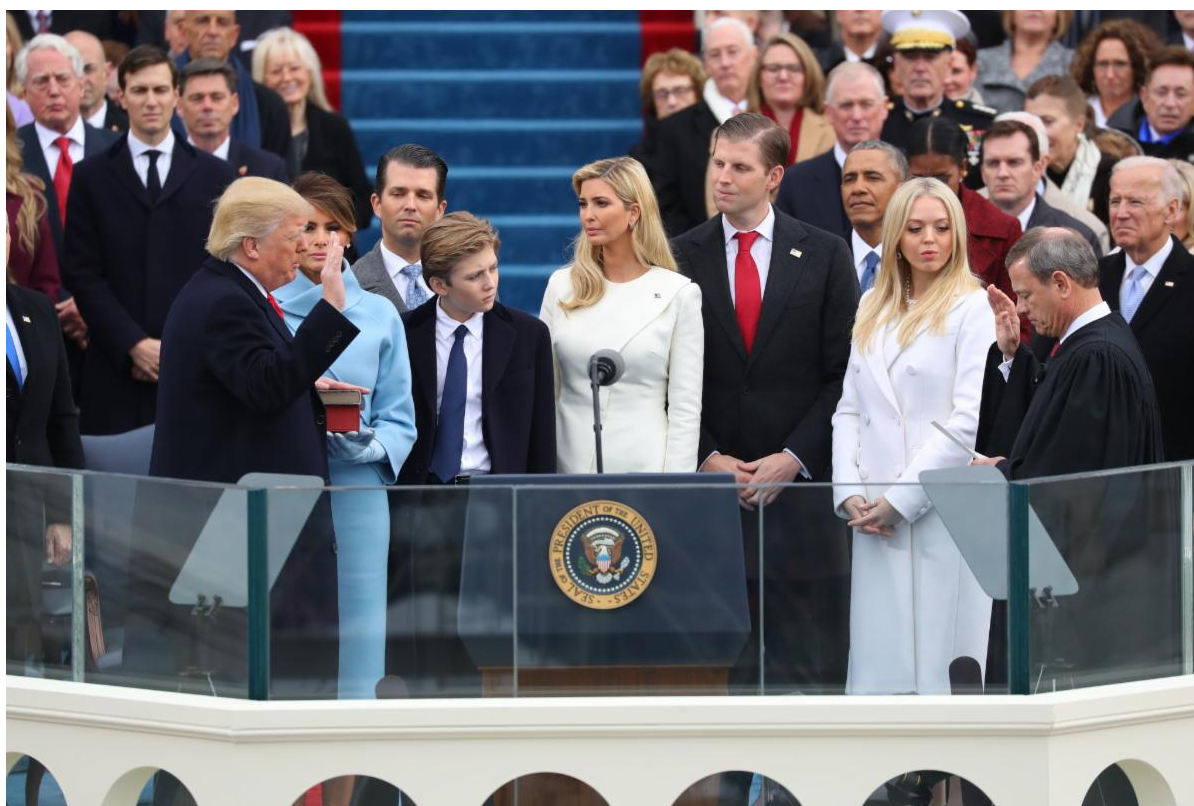
Keep shooting and submitting to Connecting!

## ***Award is far more about recipients than the presenter***

**Dave Burnett (Email)** – On Wednesday I had the opportunity to join my longtime (no he's not "old" he's simply "longtime") friend Nick Ut at the White House. He was nominated to receive an award for a lifetime of service, beginning with his photography work in his native Vietnam and later, four decades with Associated Press in Los Angeles. Everyone who was alive then - the summer of 1972 - knows the picture, the iconic image of young Phan Thi Kim Phuc, running down the road away from the pagoda, where the small group of civilians had hoped to find refuge from the fighting. It's a story that has been told a million times, but never loses its power, and when you meet that little girl decades later, and understand how she molded a life of light, love, and giving back - it's quite extraordinary. Wednesday, about the time President Trump was being impeached for the second time, a group of awardees was being given their bronze medals - from both Arts and Humanities. It is quite a list of nominees. The East Room of the White House, for years surveyed by a massive portrait of George Washington, is a place where I have made pictures for more than 50 years. It never gets old, and it never fails to remind you of the dignity, strength, and obligations of the people who occupy that house. I've been there for swearings-in, for resignations, but by far, the most enjoyable seances are those where people of great talent are recognized by their government and fellow citizens.

Nick brought four friends from California, and I was very pleased to be the fifth. The irony of the impeachment vote going down at the same hour as the ceremony was not lost on me. Things started late, I presume because the President was watching the House on TV. While I have my opinions about this President, I have always tried to be a journalist first, and there is no greater splash of cold water on your face than walking into the solemnity of the East Room and taking a (socially distanced) chair. I haven't been in the White House in nearly a year - things quickly went to tight pools after Covid arrived, and it was like seeing an old friend. (My first visit was to photograph LBJ hosting the Thai King in the summer of 1967. With exception of Dennis Brack, I think I might have the longest time-in-grade of working photographers.) Nick has taken a bit of flack but rightly has said that this is a personal honor, not a political one - and frankly, I think he's right. We live in crazy times, and in a way, the awarding of Humanity and Arts medals in such times might not be a terrible thing. It's far more about the recipients than it is the presenter. Thanks also to Mark Edward Harris, Nick's close pal from LA who negotiated so many of the bureaucratic switchbacks leading up to Wednesday. Nick and his Leica have seldom been more than inches away from each other for these 50 years. Wednesday was no different. He is a photo guy. If there is a picture to take, he'll take it. Bravo, Nick....

## Reminded of being there, Inauguration Day 2017



Photo/Chang W. Lee, New York Times

**Robert Meyers** ([Email](#)) - I heard Thursday that the National Mall will be closed on Inauguration Day, Jan. 20, 2021. I had planned to be there, but with the coronavirus

spiking in the DC area. It's probably best to stay away.

On Inauguration Day 2017, I rode Metro into Washington's L'Enfant Station, camera in hand. I walked the perimeter of the National Mall. There were a lot of people outside the security fence, roughly half of them protestors and half supporters of the new president. There was a big blockade and fence around 12th Street NW, the parade marshalling center where military equipment, horses and marching bands were staging for the Inauguration parade. Down toward the Washington Monument, a two-story temporary building stretched from the National Museum of American History to the Department of Agriculture. Security lines from there to the Capitol were long and slow but peaceful. I had been at President Obama's first inauguration in 2009 and west of 15th Street NW had been open ground packed with people all the way to the Lincoln Memorial. At the Trump inauguration, the fence extended past the Washington Monument to 17th Street NW. There were few people here so I joined the queue to clear security and enter this area thinking I might get a view from the hill in front of the Washington Monument. I remarked to a man with two boys that the area had not been secured during Obama's inauguration and he replied "that's what I tell my boys. We're not secure anymore." I think he meant somehow that it was because of Obama. When I got to the front, I saw a warning that there were 16 different items that were banned including apples, oranges, flags on sticks, and selfie sticks. I had one so I pulled out of line and continued around the perimeter. President Trump began to speak after taking the oath. On 17th Street there was a group of a few hundred people with their own PA system. As I walked through them, I realized they were all smoking cannabis and someone was satirically commenting on the president's speech as he delivered it talking about America First. Heading back toward the Capitol on Constitution Avenue, there were a lot of police. As the president finished his speech and Obama's helicopter lifted off. I took advantage of the chaos as people surged out and entered a ticketed area close to the Capitol. I wandered around the diverse group of people who supported President Trump with colorful commemorative gear happy to be there. They took photos, and danced and sang to songs on the loudspeakers. Despite the warm, dry day, there was a fraction of the crowds that came out in the bitter cold day of Obama's first inauguration day. In 2017, the big crowd came the next day for the Women's March. For the Inaugurations of President Bush, I had been inside the Capitol, working for the AP editing pool pictures from the various gatherings and formal celebrations that happen between the president-elect's arrival at the Capitol, and the newly sworn in President's departure for his new residence. Working in that little office space Scotty celebrated his 40th anniversary in recently. At that time Dennis Cook was the main photographer in Congress.

## Who said local news is dead?

*Queens man impeached — again*



**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP OF JAMAICA ESTATES WAS IMPEACHED FOR THE SECOND TIME WEDNESDAY. AP PHOTO/PAUL SANCYA**

**By David Brand  
Queens Daily Eagle**

A Queens-born real estate developer made history Wednesday when he became the first U.S. president ever impeached twice by the House of Representatives.

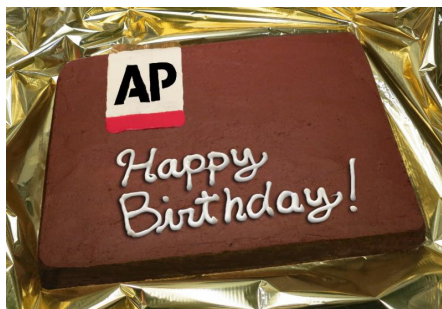
Donald Trump, a 74-year-old lame duck Republican, is accused of inciting a lethal mob of far-right supporters to storm the U.S. Capitol in order to prevent Congress from certifying the results of his resounding loss in the November 2020 election. President-elect Joe Biden, a Democrat, recorded 306 electoral votes to Trump's 232.

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

Click [here](#) for New York Times story, shared by Peggy Walsh.

## Connecting wishes Happy Birthday





*On Saturday to...*

Bob Daugherty - [robertd127@gmail.com](mailto:robertd127@gmail.com)

Brian Friedman – [bfriedman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bfriedman@sbcglobal.net)

Arlene Sposato - [raspot1011@aol.com](mailto:raspot1011@aol.com)

*On Sunday to...*

Jim Salter - [jsalter@ap.org](mailto:jsalter@ap.org)

## Stories of interest

***Committee to Protect Journalists recommends reporters covering inauguration avoid wearing press lanyards*** (The Hill)

BY ZACK BUDRYK

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) on Thursday issued a safety advisory for journalists covering President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration next week, recommending against press lanyards and conspicuous clothing.

The group cites an attack on Associated Press photographer John Minchillo last week by pro-Trump rioters in Washington to argue against the wearing of lanyards around reporters' necks, recommending they instead wear credentials on Velcro pouches around their biceps.

It also cites the events of last week to recommend battery-powered equipment rather than equipment with cables, which could be used to attack reporters. The advisory references the deliberate destruction and damage to recording equipment at the riots and urges journalists to "take the minimum amount of equipment necessary with you."

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

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## ***Some who stormed the Capitol, including a Proud Boys leader, claim they were citizen journalists*** (Los Angeles Times)

By MOLLY HENNESSY-FISKE

HOUSTON — When the livestreamer known as Dick NeCarlo entered the U.S. Capitol last week with a mob incited by President Trump, he said he wasn't there to join the insurrection but to report on the mayhem shaking the nation.

But NeCarlo was treading a blurred line between journalism and activism for a far-right cause. He and colleague Nicholas Ochs were dispatched by Murder the Media, a right-wing company based in Monte Rio, Calif., that posts video and livestreams. NeCarlo donned an MT Media shirt and hat. Ochs — host of “The Ochs Report” and leader of the far-right nationalist Proud Boys in Hawaii — wore an MT Media badge.

They interviewed pro-Trump extremists and followed them into the Capitol. The two — who view themselves as gonzo journalists in the image of the late Hunter S. Thompson — paused for a photograph in front of a door where someone had scrawled “Murder the Media.” They identified themselves as reporters to police, who didn't stop them, NeCarlo said.

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

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## ***Bryan Monroe, longtime journalist and former CNNPolitics.com editor, dies at 55*** (CNN)

By RAY SANCHEZ

(CNN) - Bryan Monroe, a journalism professor and former CNNPolitics.com editor who once headed the National Association of Black Journalists and helped guide the Biloxi Sun Herald to a Pulitzer Prize for coverage of Hurricane Katrina, has died. He was 55.

Monroe died Wednesday morning of a heart attack at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, where he lived with family, according to Suzanne Malveaux, a longtime friend and CNN national correspondent.

"He liked to connect people who were in different worlds -- whether it was the media world, Hollywood, journalism, academia," Malveaux told CNN. "He loved to cook. He brought people to be at his house often -- well, not this past year, unfortunately. And he loved to bake."

In a long journalism career that included stints as vice president and editorial director at Ebony and Jet magazine and assistant vice president of news at Knight Ridder Newspapers, Monroe conducted the first post-election interview with former President Barack Obama.

Read more [here](#).

## The Final Word

### *Finding my better place through grief*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Mark Hamrick and his father Dan Hamrick both worked for the AP. Dan worked 10 years for AP, in Charleston (WV), New York Broadcast, Baltimore, and was correspondent in Topeka and in St. Louis before taking a newspaper editorship. Mark worked 26 years for AP, starting in Dallas in 1986, then the Broadcast News Center in Washington and as Business Editor for Broadcast for about 20 years before departing in 2013 for Bankrate where he is Washington Bureau Chief and Senior Economic Analyst.

**Mark Hamrick ([Email](#))** - Since so many have experienced some form of grief or sense of loss over the past year, I want to share how grieving ultimately helped me to get to a better place. As with so much in life, it was serendipitous, happening much to my own surprise.

After nearly five months of hospitalization, my father died last April. He had suffered from poor health for much of his adult life. He nearly died from a heart attack three decades earlier, suffering two more after that.

So, it was quite remarkable and a tribute to his Appalachian settler pioneer stock that he survived until age 83. In those grim final months, we spoke by phone almost every day as his condition grew worse. There were days when his mind was sharp as ever with his razor-like sense of humor intact. There were others when he was disoriented, thinking he was in another place and time, including in the presence of my late brother Craig, who preceded

him in death from colon cancer at age 39 more than a decade ago. Those were some difficult conversations, including the many times when he asked me if he was going to die. I would always answer that the doctors thought they could make him better. I was hiding the truth knowing they expected he only had a couple of months to live, as a leg amputation, diabetes and leukemia were all taking a toll.

I'm grateful, comforted to a degree, to have been able to make a final trip to visit him in an Akron, Ohio, hospital just before the pandemic put such visits off-limits. At the time, I didn't know it would be the final trip, but I knew it was a risk.



The foreboding words about time being short spoken privately in confidence by his doctor, his gaunt appearance and his fading, painful existence I saw were shocking, but I had prepared myself for worse. I heard him crying out in pain as people were working on him while I stood outside the door.

I'm now more aware of the fact his struggle, decline and eventual death caused me stress and pain, even from a distance. This was grief well before his passing, I just didn't recognize it as such. Among the complications was the fact that he'd distanced himself from so many people including former friends and family members over his lifetime. (Dan at right)

My discomfort paled in comparison to his horrific final weeks before passing away in an emergency room immediately after being transported coughing up blood from a nursing home by ambulance. They said it was pneumonia amid a series of converging maladies. I asked whether they had tested for COVID-19 and was told no.



His suffering was such that it was an odd kind of relief when I got the shocking word from the hospital that Saturday night that he'd stopped breathing. His suffering had ended. Still, it took me some time to process what the nurse was saying over the phone.

Were they working to resuscitate him? I wasn't sure what was happening. I asked, "What's next?" The nurse answered, "Nothing. He's gone."

Finally, it sunk in. The anxious waiting for death was over. My grief entered a new phase.

### **Sunshine through the clouds**

While admittedly in a bit of a daze at first as I took time to mourn, a wonderful series of life-affirming experiences almost immediately followed. I am still uplifted by the many acts of kindness from others experienced in the days, weeks and months since. They took many forms including cards, food sent to the house, social media, text and email messages, phone calls, and other expressions of love, care and concern. They were celebrations of life, life in general.

I'm reminded of the need to pay these acts of kindness both back and forward. Who can we check in with to see if they are OK, particularly during this time of isolation and challenges?

One such ultimately important version of this kindness was an impromptu phone call from a journalist friend received during a pause while working from my pandemic dining room table desk. This friend related in a quite direct, but caring way, how he benefited from grief counseling following his mother's death. Although I didn't recognize it at the time, it was just the call I needed. I was moved by what he described as healing, or moving on, from the experience. Still, I hesitated to act initially myself, not yet ready to provide myself with help needed. That would change.

A few months later, tired of being stuck, mostly focused on work, I realized that it was time to take my friend's suggestion to seek grief counseling. I wasn't feeling like myself. I hadn't been truly fully present, psychologically speaking, at home during the pandemic. I wasn't living in the moment as much as one should.

This funk caught me by surprise. The death itself was not a surprise, only the timing and exact circumstances. I'd dealt with adversity many times over my lifetime, including after the deaths of my mother and my younger brother from colon cancer as well as close friends going back many years. How I reacted each time was different. This death, while expected, hit me harder. Maybe it was because now, my mother, my only sibling and now my father had all passed away.

With counseling through video conferencing technology, I began to feel better, moving beyond grief while coming to terms with complex feelings about my father's complicated, often troubled life and death.

### **A letter to my late father**

An important improvement came after I finished writing a letter to my late father, which I have kept to myself. It was suggested by my therapist. In it, I described how my dad had both helped and disappointed me during his life. It included some words and thoughts I couldn't convey to him while he was still alive. The letter ended with my forgiveness of the not-so-good things, celebrating what I appreciate about him, like career guidance and instilling a love of food and cooking as well as an awareness of our ancestors going back to the pre-Revolutionary War era in America. I closed by noting the hope that one day we will see each other again in another realm. He wasn't particularly religious, but I became Catholic as an adult.

During this time of healing, I began to feel an increasingly urgent need to focus on losing weight. Perhaps amplified by my father's fate, including his insufficient attention to health over the decades, a quiet voice in my own mind urged me to reduce health risk factors. Turning 60 during the pandemic probably turned up the volume. There's more time in back of me than there is in front of me.

### **Action soon helped reinforce motivation.**

Although I'd exercised for years by going to the gym or for long walks, the weight I'd picked up over the past decade stuck. The words from a few years ago from my doctor reverberated that I could track my diet using any number of mobile apps, helping to limit what was undoubtedly too much caloric intake. As she said, it doesn't matter how much one exercises if too many calories are coming into the body.

Since we were forced to work from home, I have exercised outside regularly. My brisk walks, paced by Apple Watch, began to stretch from an average of 2-3 miles to 5 or 6 miles with each outing.

I decided to try the widely advertised diet app Noom on my phone and found it to be immensely helpful, producing results almost immediately. Its psychology and tech-driven approach to monitoring food intake and physical activity gave me the path. I shifted my diet dramatically using this guidance, eating more vegetables and fruit and avoiding dietary no-no's, like snacks, fats and carbs. It helps that I do the grocery shopping and cooking for our family. So, flipping the switch was pretty seamless, particularly as I found better food choices, which continue to evolve. Thank you, kale, broccoli, and cauliflower rice!

A number of other daily rituals have helped. These include journaling on a regular basis and saying daily prayers of thanksgiving. Still, I'm mindful that my life should remain that proverbial "work in progress".

### **Checking off boxes**

Fast forward to the present and recent past. I hit my goal weight about four months after I began using Noom (which I pay for). I'd never lost 25 pounds before in my life. I've since set a new, lower target.

My annual physical demonstrated improvement in my physical health. Going over my labs, an assistant to my doctor called the results “fantastic”. Diet and exercise had driven my key numbers to nominal or healthy levels. Hearing that was an important affirmation. I know I’ll need to remain vigilant to stay on the right path.

Through all of this healing process, I’ve had the love and rock-solid support of my wife and adult son, friends, colleagues and my employer, among others. Our son Christopher was in our house for about five months during the pandemic, both working remotely on West Coast time and studying for an advanced degree. For all of us, I couldn’t have imagined that a pandemic would have provided the opportunity to spend so much quality time together. Many other people have told me of similar experiences and sources of gratitude.

I’ve come to better understand that feelings are a bit like the composition of clouds, or lack thereof, in the sky. Others will certainly follow, but this too shall pass. How or whether we react and acknowledge these feelings is in our control.

The healthier diet and other life-affirming practices are here to stay, I think. Like everyone else, I’m ready to move on from this horrible pandemic. Once vaccinated, I can’t wait to do so many things we previously took for granted, like spending time with friends, family and others, going to the office, being in downtown Washington where I’ve worked for years, and traveling around the country and beyond. And I’d like to go back to the gym.

While looking forward to the post pandemic world, I’m focused on spending less time in the past and future and more time in the present. In fact, I like it here.

Although I wouldn’t have wished it upon myself, grief forced me to find a better way. Here’s hoping we all find better things in the days and months ahead. I am very aware that many people have had much more significant challenges than I have over these past months.

Whatever you’re dealing with, whatever worthy goal you’re targeting, I’m here to cheer you on. We will get through this. The clouds are parting. With vaccines now being administered, the end of the pandemic is in sight.

Please share your thoughts on what the past year has meant to you, anything you've been working through and the better place you may have arrived at, or are still aiming for. Here's to a better 2021 for all of us.

## Today in History - Jan. 15, 2021



## By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Jan. 15, the 15th day of 2021. There are 350 days left in the year.

### Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 15, 2020, Chinese officials said they couldn't rule out the possibility that a new coronavirus in central China could spread between humans, though they said the risk of transmission appeared to be low.

### On this date:

In 1862, the U.S. Senate confirmed President Abraham Lincoln's choice of Edwin M. Stanton to be the new Secretary of War, replacing Simon Cameron.

In 1865, as the Civil War neared its end, Union forces captured Fort Fisher near Wilmington, North Carolina, depriving the Confederates of their last major seaport.

In 1892, the original rules of basketball, devised by James Naismith, were published for the first time in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the game originated.

In 1929, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta.

In 1942, Jawaharlal Nehru (jah-WAH'-hahr-lahl NAY'-roo) was named to succeed Mohandas K. Gandhi as head of India's Congress Party.

In 1943, work was completed on the Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. Department of War (now Defense).

In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon announced the suspension of all U.S. offensive action in North Vietnam, citing progress in peace negotiations.



In 1974, the situation comedy "Happy Days" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1976, Sara Jane Moore was sentenced to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford in San Francisco. (Moore was released on the last day of 2007.)

In 1993, a historic disarmament ceremony ended in Paris with the last of 125 countries signing a treaty banning chemical weapons.

In 2009, US Airways Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger ditched his Airbus 320 in the Hudson River after a flock of birds disabled both engines; all 155 people aboard survived.

In 2014, a highly critical and bipartisan Senate report declared that the deadly Sept. 2012 assault on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya, could have been prevented; the report spread blame among the State Department, the military and U.S. intelligence.

Ten years ago: Several international envoys [-] but crucially none from the world powers [-] got a look inside an Iranian nuclear site at the invitation of the Tehran government before a new round of talks on Iran's disputed atomic activities. Miss Nebraska Teresa Scanlan won the Miss America pageant in Las Vegas. Actor Susannah York, 72, died in London.

Five years ago: Al-Qaida fighters attacked a hotel and cafe in Burkina Faso's capital, killing 30 people. A search began for two Marine helicopters carrying 12 crew members that collided off the Hawaiian island of Oahu during a nighttime training mission; there were no survivors. A federal judge rejected Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev's bid for a new trial and ordered him to pay victims of the deadly attack more than \$101 million in restitution. Actor Dan Haggerty, 74, died in Burbank, California.

One year ago: House Democratic leaders carried the articles of impeachment against President Donald Trump across the U.S. Capitol in a formal procession to the Senate. The United States and China reached a trade deal easing tensions between the world's two biggest economies. Russian President Vladimir Putin engineered a surprise shake-up of Russia's leadership while proposing changes to the country's constitution that could keep him in power well past the end of his term in 2024. (Putin ordered the amendments made to the constitution in July 2020 after a week-long vote; critics said the reported 78% approval of the changes had been falsified.) Two U.S. government agencies reported that the decade that had just ended was by far the hottest ever measured on earth.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Margaret O'Brien is 83. Actor Andrea Martin is 74. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Randy White is 68. Actor-director Mario Van Peebles is 64. Rock musician Adam Jones (Tool) is 56. Actor James Nesbitt is 56. Actor Chad Lowe is 53. Alt-country singer Will Oldham (aka Bonnie Prince Billy) is 51. Actor Regina King

is 50. Actor Dorian Missick is 45. Actor Eddie Cahill is 43. NFL quarterback Drew Brees is 42. Rapper/reggaeton artist Pitbull is 40. Actor Victor Rasuk is 36. Actor Jessy Schram is 35. Electronic dance musician Skrillex is 33. Actor/singer Dove Cameron is 25. Singer-songwriter Grace VanderWaal (TV: "America's Got Talent") is 17.

## 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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