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Connecting

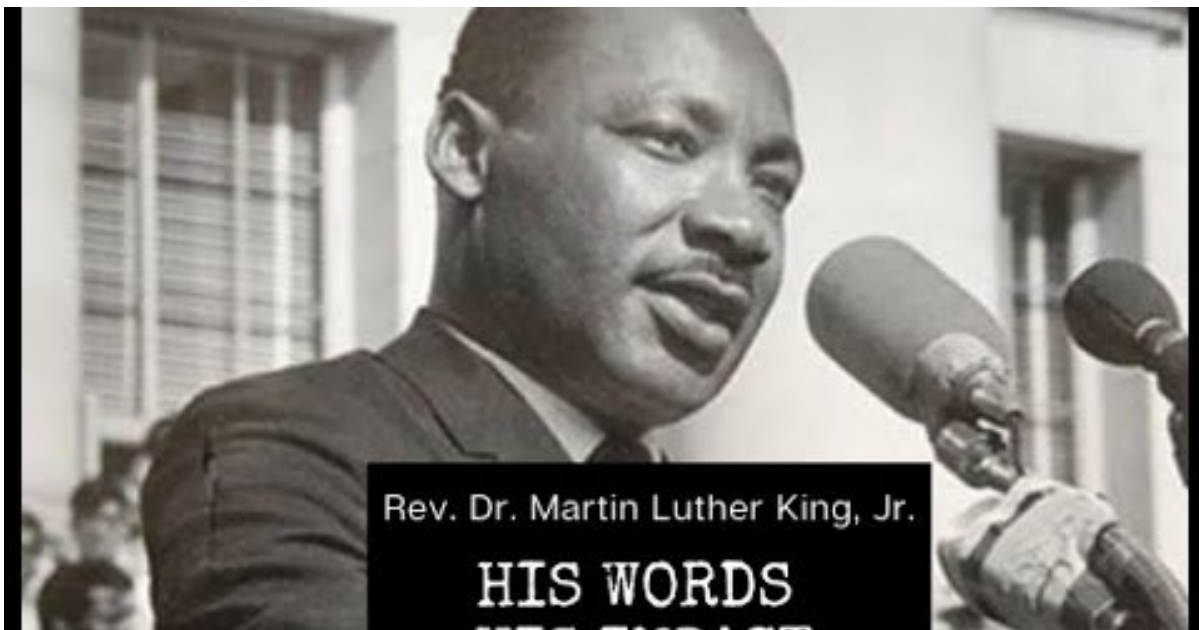
January 19, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Tuesday morning on this the 19th day of January 2021,

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy, Connecting colleague **Kia Breaux** shares a link to a production by New Jersey Creative Arts Collaborative, directed by **Diane Parker**, AP's director of Staffing, Global Diversity and Inclusion.

It is titled: "His Words - His Impact: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

The video includes Kia's sons, John and Jaden, reading famous Dr. King quotes. "The production," she said, "recreates some of Dr. King's best-known speeches and includes soul-stirring music and many of his famous quotes presented by children from around the U.S. I recommend watching the entire production. John and Jaden speak at the 35:50 mark."

Click [here](#) to view.

Today's issue brings you more thoughts of your colleagues on the Medal of the Arts award presented by President Trump last week at the White House to our colleague **Nick Ut** – and whether Nick should have accepted it.

Have a good day – be safe, stay healthy.

Paul

Views of a very different Washington, D.C.



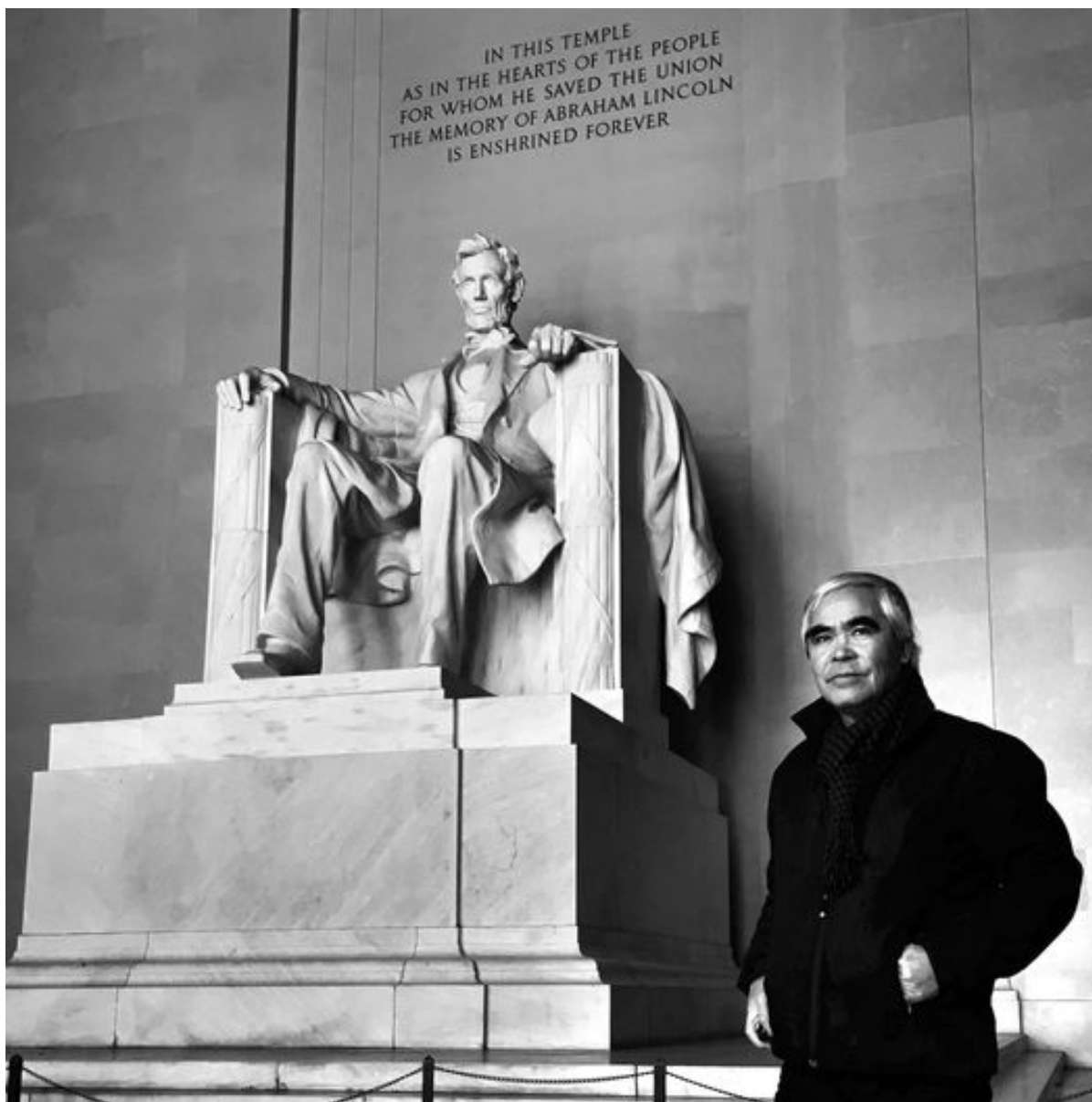
Dennis Whitehead ([Email](#)) - These photographs were shot this past Thursday during a bike ride through DC and a visit with LA colleague Nick Ut. There was (and now is more than ever) no reason to drive a car into the District, leaving biking a viable, healthy alternative. From this morning's

news reporting, it now appears to be nearly impossible to even walk around downtown without a press pass and/or special Inaugural credentials.

Many Connecting readers worked in DC or know the capital well, but this is a city today you wouldn't recognize. Tall black fences everywhere with National Guard troops pacing sidewalks in tense boredom. The broad avenues of the city stand empty except for trucks carrying more fencing and security vehicles. Offices and businesses are shuttered, some anticipating the worst. It made for great biking on a beautiful day but the atmosphere was spooky, to say the least.



Nick Ut: To accept Medal of Arts award from President Trump...or not



Nick Ut at the Lincoln Memorial in this photo by his friend and colleague David Kennerly taken in 2016. Connecting meant to include it with David's post yesterday on Nick and his award but accidentally left it out. David commented on the photo, "They are both great symbols of what America is all about."

Le Lieu Browne (Email) - When I saw the picture of Nick Ut standing next to Donald J. Trump, proudly showing the award, I was sick in stomach and yet at the same time proud of Nick. This kind of ambiguity is the product of being Vietnamese American. Living in this country over half a century, I often have mixed emotions between the two cultures.

I almost had a physical and mental attack during the general election, living in terror that Trump might win. With what happened on January 6th, I not only despise the man in the White House but I am disgusted with these congressmen who unashamedly declare the Biden election fraud. For years, blaming myself for not thoroughly understanding American mentality, I often ask American friends and acquaintances to explain to me why American politicians and citizens tolerate and

support a liar and a lunatic head of the nation. I am glad that I am with the majority and impatiently waiting for the 20th.

So why I approve Nick Ut 's action? I know Nick back in Vietnam when he first joined the AP office. We are friends and Vietnamese. Despite his celebrity, Nick remains a modest and shy man who loves his job more so than anything in this world. He deserves the highest award in journalism in the country. I believe that he had no second thought of turning down the award, but proudly presented himself in front of Trump. For him, the honor is neither his, nor Trump's, but Vietnamese people's honor.

"He has no choice," my brother from California told me. "He represented Vietnamese people in the United States. Most Vietnamese living in California are Republicans and pro Trump. It is an honor for the community to have a first Vietnamese to be bestowed such an award by the hands of President of the United States. He personally might run a risk of alienating with his people in California if he turned down the award."

So "every life is part of a larger public life" is applicable to Nick's towards a community of which respect and honor are traditional. Politics aside, I strongly believe on Nick's motive that is unfortunately lost or misunderstood by cultural differences.

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Sibby Christensen ([Email](#)) - Don't think we should be too harsh on Nick Ut for accepting his Medal of Arts award from the hands of current (as of this hour) president. Normally the presidential gloss would be nice, but I doubt if Trump offered any input for the selection and may have had little idea that Nick worked for the so-called "enemies of the people." For all he knew, Nick might have been making pretty pictures of flowers.

Serious art always has reflected messages from history, from stained glass windows to, yes, news photography.

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Marc Humbert ([Email](#)) - I can't help feeling sorry for Nick Ut as he confronts the controversy over his acceptance of a medal from President Trump. Nick so greatly deserved the honor after a lifetime of shooting photos that brought us all the truth - from the horrors of war to the violence on our own streets.

A problem is that Nick accepted the award on the very day that rioters crashed through the doors and windows of our U.S. Capitol just minutes after Trump had told them to march on that very Capitol in an attempt to halt the certification of electoral votes that would hand the presidency to Joe Biden.

But the main problem is that Nick didn't seem to understand that the award was not just going to a person, but to an icon. As his longtime friend and AP colleague Linda Deutsch said in her post in Monday's Connecting that criticized Nick's accepting the award from Trump, Ut is "a man I always thought of as a hero and the soul of integrity." As Nick is now learning, icons seem to have a responsibility greater than that of the average citizen. It may not be fair, but it is just the way things are.

For Nick, he can keep the medal and get on with his life. Or, he can return the medal and make a statement, and get on with his life. But no matter what he does, Nick should also realize that even those who are critical of his accepting the medal are largely doing so because of the great esteem they have held him in. He can take some solace in that. Yes, it may not be fair, but it is just the way things are.

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Bruce Lowitt (Email) - It's highly unlikely that Nick Ut's grandchildren or great-grandchildren are going to ask "Who gave it to you?" Nor does it matter.

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Mark Mittelstadt (Email) - Congratulations to Nick Ut for being selected to receive the Medal of Arts and for having the courage in these unsettled and hyper-partisan times to go to the nation's capital to receive it from President Trump.

For 51 years Nick documented for the world not only some of the best of life but also some of the very worst. He covered riots, protests, wildfires, wars, celebrities. He has seen death and destruction up close and personal, including his older brother being killed by the Viet Cong and a naked 9-year-old girl, her body badly burned when four napalm bombs were dropped on her village. Nick's heroic efforts to get help for Kim Phuc when none seemed available saved her life, built a lifelong friendship and a body of respect around the world.

It is presumptuous of anyone to tell Nick he should not have gone to Washington to receive such an honor from an American president. Nick has seen the deep personal harm and destruction of repressive regimes and Communist rule. As he said in his interview with Newsweek, "To me, America represents freedom."

He deserved to be recognized by the elected leader of the free world. It's a shame it didn't come sooner.

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Jack Ronald (Email) - In a perfect world, honors would only be bestowed by leaders we revere.

But the last I knew, we don't live in a perfect world.

And while I'm ambivalent about Nick Ut's decision to accept the National Medal of Arts from President Donald J. Trump, I'm ultimately okay with that.

The decision was not mine to make. It was Nick's. And the honor was without question deserved.

If Nick had decided to decline the honor because of the Trump presidency, I would have applauded that decision.

But my admiration for Nick and his work is not diminished in any way by his trip to the White House.

I can't say the same about those who have assumed the mantle of judgment.

Smug and self-righteous, they ultimately come across as small, making Nick's decision about themselves rather than about Nick and his work.

So, am I ambivalent about the circumstances? Sure.

Would I have preferred that Nick had been honored by a president I admire? Sure.

But am I excited that one of the greatest photojournalists of our era received a ground-breaking honor?

You bet.

Nick, get well. Take care of yourself. Mend. And, most of all, keep shooting.

Donna Bryson joins Reuters as national affairs editor

Donna Bryson ([Email](#)) started 2021 with a new job, as a US national affairs editor for Reuters. Bryson will lead a small team of reporters charged with exploring the fault lines in U.S. society as well as the individuals and communities bringing imaginative approaches to problem solving.

Bryson returned to the United States in 2012 from her last foreign assignment for AP, as chief

of bureau in Johannesburg. Since returning to the US she has published two books -- It's a Black-White Thing, about race relations among young South Africans, and Home of the Brave, about a small Colorado town's efforts to help military veterans reintegrate into civilian life. Before joining Reuters, she was housing and hunger reporter for Denverite, a hyper local news site that is part of Colorado Public Radio. Her work with Denverite earned her Journalist of the Year in 2019 from the Colorado Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Bryson will be based in Denver for Reuters.



AP lost a friend in Judy Lynn Prince



Bob Haiman (third from left) and Judy Lynn Prince share a laugh with outgoing president APME President Angie Muhs (left) and past president Rich Archbold at the APME Regents dinner during the final APME conference, held in September 2019 in New Orleans. APME merged with the American Society of News Editors to form the News Leaders Association.

Mark Mittelstadt ([Email](#)) - The Associated Press and its long-time former association of newspaper editors lost a dear friend this month with the passing of Judy Lynn Prince.

Prince, a retired public relations executive and television producer, was a very close friend of Bob Haiman, former executive editor of the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times and a long-time member of The Associated Press Managing Editors Association. Haiman presided over the group's annual conference in 1982 in San Diego and for decades has chaired a group of former leaders known as the APME Regents, now just The Regents. APME, renamed Associated Press Media Editors, merged with another editors group, The American Society of News Editors, in 2019; the merged group is now the News Leaders Association.

Haiman and Prince attended the annual APME conferences together for many years and enjoyed the company of editors and other industry leaders during meetings at APME social events. They also traveled the world, documenting such activities as riding camels, experiencing some of the coldest weather on earth and climbing high mountain peaks in their annual holiday "card," which in most years was a multi-page booklet. They also were major supporters of the arts.

Haiman, now president emeritus at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, said Prince died the morning of Jan. 7 at her home in Washington "of as-yet unknown causes." She was 78. He was at his Florida home at the time and immediately traveled to Washington to deal with her loss and to begin to try to close out her affairs. "I have lost the life of my life, and I am completely devastated," he shared with friends.

Prince retired from Mobil Corporation in 1995 after 21 years as the executive television producer, responsible for many award-winning TV commercials, marketing tapes, point-of-sale in-store videos, video news releases, training tapes and documentaries, plus training senior executives for TV talk shows and appearances before Congressional Committees. In retirement, she traded the corporate world for non-profit volunteer work. She was past president of the Smithsonian Women's Committee, the largest benefactor of the Smithsonian outside the individual development offices, which raises money from the Smithsonian Craft Show, recognized as the premier craft show in the U.S. She served on the boards of the American Heart Association; American Cancer Society; American Women in Radio and Television; Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., National Council for the American Theater, and the Smithsonian's Women's Committee. She was also a trustee of the Smithsonian National Board and Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington and on the Friends Council of the Newseum's First Amendment Society.

Word of her death brought an outpouring of shock and sorrow from their friends in AP, APME and elsewhere. "No words can convey the many thoughts, prayers and all needed blessings for you, Bob," wrote Mary Kay Blake, former Senior Vice President of Development for the Newseum. "A bright light has left us."

For more on Judy Lynn Prince's career, click [here](#).

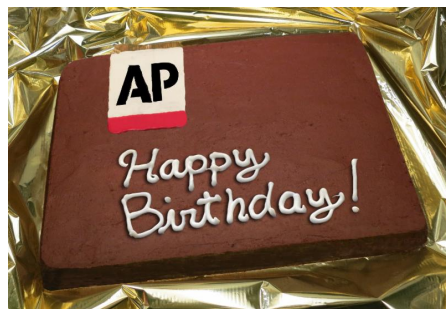
Sunrise in Bangkok



Markus Kreutz ([Email](#)) - Sending you a picture of me posing with friends (the one on left is me) before teeing off at the Muang Kaew golf CC in Bangkok Monday morning. Thankfully, Thailand has done exceptionally well with COVID so far and thus

golfing is still allowed, though, among other restrictions, international travel is still out of the question for me. Stay safe!

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



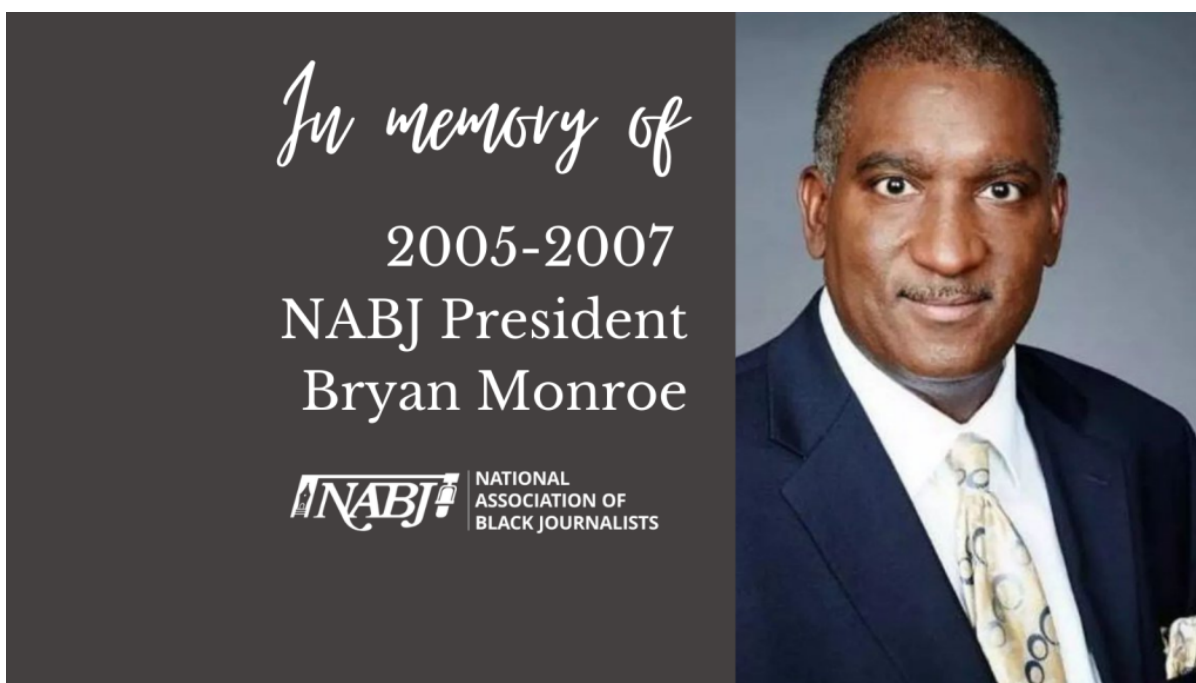
Matt Barba - mbarba@socket.net

Denis Gray - denisdgray@gmail.com

Patty Woodrow - pwoodrow@ap.org

Stories of interest

NABJ Celebrates the Life & Legacy of Former President Bryan Monroe, Services Scheduled Jan. 19



Services for former NABJ President Bryan Monroe will take place on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 11 a.m. EST.

Due to the current pandemic environment, only the immediate family will be in physical attendance. The family invites and encourages everyone to join via a live stream beginning at 10:45 a.m. EST.

Connect using: <https://www.haripclosefunerals.com/services/>, then click on Live Stream. The password is "Monroe."

A scholarship fund is being established through Temple University. Details forthcoming.

Read more [here](#).

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Joe Ricketts is launching a national news outlet based in Omaha (Omaha World-Herald)

By Paul Hammel

LINCOLN — Billionaire businessman and philanthropist Joe Ricketts is preparing another venture into the news business, and he's chosen Omaha as his launching pad.

Ricketts is hiring staff to launch an online national news outlet called Straight Arrow News that he said will do what other outlets aren't doing — providing news without a political slant.

"I think there's a gap in the market — there's no source for unbiased, fact-based news. And I believe there's a business opportunity there," he said.

"Some people say you can't have unbiased news. I want to prove them wrong with Straight Arrow News," he said.

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

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At 80, She Is the Defiant Editor of 'The Buzz' (New York Times)

By John Leland

Diana Wiener wanted information and was not getting it. So last May, at age 80, Ms. Wiener went into the news business.

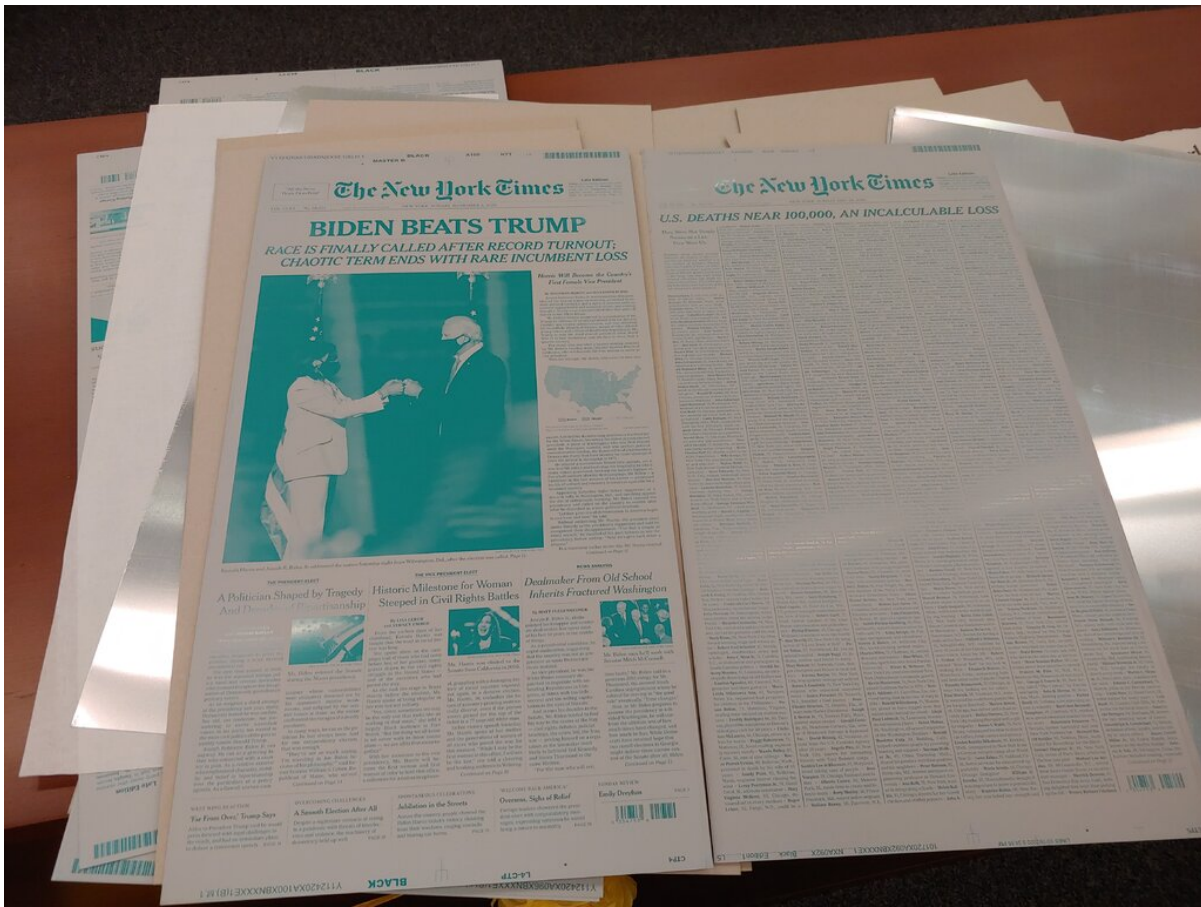
“I’d had it with this whole secrecy thing,” she said the other day.

Ms. Wiener, a former furniture store owner, lives with her husband in the Five Star Premier Residences of Yonkers, just north of New York City, a retirement community that provides multiple levels of care. When the novel coronavirus hit New York last spring, and the building management confined residents to their apartments, Ms. Wiener felt a frustration that has become common among those who live in buildings like hers. Residents had no idea which neighbors or employees were sick with the virus, which had died, which had moved out or been exposed during a visit to the doctor. Management refused to provide names, citing privacy laws.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Peggy Walsh.

The Final Word

Precious Metal for Times Journalists: The Page One Plate (New York Times)



By Flora Lee Peir

The requests trickle in every two or three weeks: A reporter or photographer has made the front page of The New York Times for the first time. Could we honor them with a press plate of that day’s Page One?

Saying “yes” is one of the best parts of my job.

Commemorative plates, unused sheets of the actual aluminum plates attached to the printing presses to produce the newspaper, go to enterprising reporters fresh out of college and to writers who have toiled for decades. They go to photographers who captured the defining shot and to editors who nurtured a masterpiece.

At The Times, the tradition of presenting Page One plates to journalists for making their first A1 — the plates are also occasionally given for articles of historic impact or to signify other achievements — would seem to go back about 40 years.

Read more [here](#). Shared by Hank Ackerman.

Today in History - Jan. 19, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 19, the 19th day of 2021. There are 346 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Jan. 19, 1981, the United States and Iran signed an accord paving the way for the release of 52 Americans held hostage for more than 14 months.

On this date:

In 1809, author, poet and critic Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston.

In 1861, Georgia became the fifth state to secede from the Union.

In 1915, Germany carried out its first air raid on Britain during World War I as a pair of Zeppelins dropped bombs onto Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in England.

In 1937, millionaire Howard Hughes set a transcontinental air record by flying his monoplane from Los Angeles to Newark, New Jersey, in 7 hours, 28 minutes and 25 seconds.

In 1942, during World War II, Japanese forces captured the British protectorate of North Borneo. A German submarine sank the Canadian liner RMS Lady Hawkins off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, killing 251 people; 71 survived.

In 1944, the federal government relinquished control of the nation's railroads to their owners following settlement of a wage dispute.

In 1955, a presidential news conference was filmed for television and newsreels for the first time, with the permission of President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

In 1980, retired Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas died in Washington, D.C., at age 81.

In 1987, Guy Hunt became Alabama's first Republican governor since 1874 as he was sworn into office, succeeding George C. Wallace.

In 2005, the American Cancer Society reported that cancer had passed heart disease as the top killer of Americans age 85 and younger.

In 2006, Osama bin Laden, in an audiotape that was his first in more than a year, said al-Qaida was preparing for attacks in the United States; at the same time, he offered a "long-term truce" without specifying the conditions. Vice President Dick Cheney defended the administration's domestic surveillance program, calling it an essential tool in monitoring al-Qaida and other terrorist organizations.

In 2009, Russia and Ukraine signed a deal restoring natural gas shipments to Ukraine and paving the way for an end to the nearly two-week cutoff of most Russian gas to a freezing Europe.

Ten years ago: Chinese President Hu Jintao, visiting the White House, declared "a lot still needs to be done" to improve his country's record on human rights; the exchange with President Barack Obama over human rights was balanced by U.S. delight over newly announced Chinese business deals expected to generate about \$45 billion in new export sales for the U.S.

Five years ago: Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump received the endorsement of conservative firebrand Sarah Palin, giving the businessman a potential boost less than two weeks before Iowa's kick-off caucuses. Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, in his State of the State address, again pledged to fix the crisis over Flint's lead-contaminated water. Italian movie director Ettore Scola, 84, died in Rome.

One year ago: Health officials in central China reported that 17 more people had been diagnosed with the new coronavirus, which had killed two patients and placed other countries on alert. The South Korean film "Parasite" became the first foreign language film to take top honors from the Screen Actors Guild, en route to an Academy Award as best picture. The San Francisco 49ers rolled past the Green Bay Packers, 37-20, to advance to the franchise's seventh Super Bowl; the Kansas City Chiefs reached their first Super Bowl in a half century by beating the Tennessee Titans 35-24 for the AFC championship.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Tippi Hedren is 91. Former PBS newsmen Robert MacNeil is 90. Movie director Richard Lester is 89. Actor-singer Michael Crawford is 79. Actor Shelley Fabares (fab-RAY') is 77. Country singer Dolly Parton is 75. Former ABC newswoman Ann Compton is 74. TV chef Paula Deen is 74. Rock singer Martha Davis is 70. Singer Dewey Bunnell (America) is 69. Actor Desi Arnaz Jr. is 68. Actor Katey Sagal is 67. Comedian Paul Rodriguez is 66. Conductor Sir Simon Rattle is 66. Reggae musician Mickey Virtue (formerly with UB40) is 64. Rock musician Jeff Pilson

(Foreigner) is 63. Actor Paul McCrane is 60. Actor William Ragsdale is 60. Basketball coach and commentator Jeff Van Gundy is 59. International Tennis Hall of Famer Stefan Edberg is 55. Rock singer Whitfield Crane (Ugly Kid Joe) is 53. Singer Trey Lorenz is 52. Actor Shawn Wayans is 50. Rock singer-musician John Wozniak (Marcy Playground) is 50. Actor Drea (DRAY-uh') de Matteo is 49. Comedian-impressionist Frank Caliendo is 47. Actor Drew Powell is 45. Actor Marsha Thomason is 45. Actor Bitsie Tulloch is 40. Actor Jodie Sweetin is 39. Movie director Damien Chazelle is 36. Actor Shaunette Renee Wilson is 31. Actor Briana Henry is 29. Actor Logan Lerman is 29. Olympic gold medal gymnast Shawn Johnson is 29. Rapper Taylor Bennett is 25. Actor Lidya Jewett is 14.

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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