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Connecting

April 28, 2021

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Colleagues,

Good Wednesday morning on this the 28th day of April 2021,

Connecting's 90s Club has a new member – **Hal Buell**, who during his AP career directed the worldwide photos department for 25 years. His thoughts on his life and career were shared in Tuesday's Connecting. Happy birthday, Hal!

We lead today's issue with your memories of working with Hal. If you have your own to share, please send them along.

Today's issue also brings news from the AP of some changes in the AP News department announced Tuesday by Executive Editor **Sally Buzbee**. Congratulations to all involved.

Have a great day – be safe, stay healthy!

Paul

90 years young today Your favorite memories of working with Hal Buell



Hal Buell and Claudia DiMartino on a visit to northern California wine country.

Wendy Davis Beard ([Email](#)) - After working freelance on the photo research of Hal Buell's "Moments in Time: 50 years of AP Photo History", I felt I'd seen enough material to pitch a photo-driven book titled "Contrasts" in news photos, some simply triumph/tragedy, winners/ losers, and some other combinations where the contrast might be much more subtle. Hal gave me support and some sage advice which I think many of your Connecting readers would agree with. The imbalance of content will always stay/sway with the stack of images that lean on the scales with heavier, tragic images... even if there are numerically the same or less gut-wrenching pictures, any book could feel weighted down by a multitude of images of suffering and grief. In the end my book wasn't published, but I did find some years later an almost "carbon copy" (now there's an old expression!), published by Time Life, sitting in the office of my dentist in Sydney, Australia! I was always more interested in how images are read/function in history than the cut and thrust of the news business. Hal seemed equally interested and comfortable with both.

A new connection. Recently my husband and I were watching the funeral of Prince Philip...John was taking lots of photographs off the

television with his iPhone. For possible use in a new series of paintings of iconic moments in British history {which may include several funerals and weddings; the shows of soldiers were fantastic. "Nobody does it better than the British," John, a Welshman, said in reference to the pomp and circumstance. We both find the sound of the boots marching, clicking and adjusting into place so beautifully syncopated these might be his first paintings with a sound track. I then remembered knowing Hal Buell directed AP's photographic coverage of Winston Churchill's funeral which we watched not long ago. I wonder if Hal watched the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral, reliving his experience of covering Churchill's and wonder if he got to hear any of it while consumed by its coverage? Hal? Happy Happy Birthday from the British countryside.



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Myron Belkind ([Email](#)) – *in a note to Hal, shared with Connecting* - How appropriate that your 90th birthday is celebrated during the 175th anniversary of the AP!

In my objective assessment, you are among those stalwarts who have had a major -- if not the most -- impact by a single person on the development of the AP.

From the time we first met when I stopped in Tokyo in early 1963 on the way to work for Don Huth in Kuala Lumpur while on a traveling fellowship from Columbia until the last time we met in person, if my memory is correct, at the 100th birthday celebration for Max Desfor at the National Press Club in 2013, it has been an honor to know you.

Whenever I had to wear my salesperson's hat to attract new AP subscribers, it often was the AP photo report -- under your leadership -- that clinched the deal!

Rachel joins me in wishing you all the very best for the future!

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Herb Hemming ([Email](#)) - I was hired straight out of the University of Missouri in 1968 by Al Resch.

I'm not sure of the exact timing, but I believe not long after I arrived in New York Mr. Resch retired and Hal took over. My memory is not as good as some who contribute to Connecting.

I do remember how much Hal helped me through the transition. He spent an entire Saturday driving me around (in that old Plymouth I think) looking for apartments. I believe it was my first Thanksgiving in New York and Hal and Angela invited me to dinner. I found myself in a room full of AP executives, most of whom I didn't know.

I had major drinking issues during my time in New York. I owe amends to those who had to cover for me many a shift. Hal was more than supportive and patient during this period. I quit AP in 1980, thinking moving back to California would fix it all. I got sober in 1982 (sober 38 years now) and was so grateful when the AP hired me back in 1985. Thank you Hal, Spencer Jones and John Brewer. I ended up putting in about 27 years.

Thank you Hal for being so nice to me. 90, wow.

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Brian Horton (Email) - I'm sure others will cover Hal Buell's many accomplishments as a journalist, photo editor, author and innovator. Leading AP Photos through the biggest stories for so many years. As the "father" of digital photography. So much to be recognized for.

I'd like to, instead, talk about the importance of Hal to me as a mentor and a friend. He showed me how to manage an assignment and how to manage life's experiences. No one has ever led by example quite the way that Hal has for me.

Over the years, we had long conversations in the office, in cars and planes headed all manner of ways and many, many conversations at events around the world. He taught me to believe in myself, to believe in the staff that we had gathered and to believe in the mission of the AP.

I think it says a lot that Hal still keeps in touch with friends stretching back to his time in college, his stint in the Army, his early years with the AP and others from more recent times. Once you enter Hal's circle of friends, you have a friend for life. Through life's ups and downs, he has always had perfect timing in reaching out to offer an encouraging word or a bit of advice.

Other than my own parents, I can't think of anyone who has had more of an impression on me than Hal. I am lucky he is my friend.

Happy birthday, Hal.

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Cliff Schiappa (Email) - I knew someone whose father knew someone who worked with Hal Buell, and thus, my foot got in the door.

A classmate of mine at the community college I was attending on Long Island mentioned his dad knew Tommy diLustro who was a photo editor at 50 Rock. A few months later I landed an appointment, through Tommy, to meet Hal and to show him my meager portfolio.

All dressed up and nervous as hell, I walked under the imposing Noguchi sculpture in the summer of 1977, made my way to the fourth floor and sat in the reception area outside Hal's office, watching the organized mayhem of the world's control point of visual journalism.

Entering his office, I knew here was a very busy person taking a few minutes to meet a 20-year-old college kid, which only made me more nervous. Furrowed brow, Hal looked over my photos as I outlined my plans to attend the University of Missouri to study photojournalism. He said "we could use someone in Columbia" and then explained what a stringer was. He brought me out to the photo desk, showed how editors were viewing photos on a CRT screen, turning knobs to change the contrast or exposure, and then bid me farewell, but not without inviting me to visit anytime I'm back seeing family. Twenty-five minutes that changed my life!

Over the years I would indeed visit, keeping my name, face, and images in front of Hal, hoping to someday land a staff position. In May 1980 I was on my way to a summer job at the Providence (RI) Journal-Bulletin when I sat at Hal's desk as he told me of an opening for a staff photographer in Philadelphia and asked if I was interested. "Yes!" was the obvious reply, but I explained I had committed to Providence and I couldn't leave them in a lurch. He smiled and said if I had done that, he would never hire me to work for AP. Disappointed but enlightened, it was one of those learning moments that has stuck with me to this day.

Of course patience paid off, I was hired on staff in '84 and was a participating witness as Hal orchestrated the industry changing from film to digital. First the Leafax transmitter, then the LeafDesk, followed by digital cameras. Hal invited me to join the PhotoStream Advisory Group, in 1990 that had eight of us crisscross the United States non-stop for 18 months, teaching newspaper staffs how to use and incorporate the LeafDesk into their daily operation. It was Hal who kept us all focused and charged, sometimes pushing, sometimes empathetic, always concerned for our well-being as we slogged through airports lugging the industry's latest technology. I daresay the newspaper industry would have dragged its feet if it weren't for Hal's determination, intelligence, and confidence as he cajoled publishers, questioned programmers, and squeezed bookkeepers to complete the incredible transition.

And 30 years later we are all the beneficiaries of Hal's good health and talent that has allowed him to continue into his 90s as a writer, editor, commentator and friend to many. And of course thanks go to Claudia DiMartino who surely deserves credit for supporting Hal in his many endeavors past and future. Happy Birthday HGB!

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Dave Tomlin (Email) - Some time in the 80s when I was Des Moines bureau chief, an Amtrak train jumped the rails in southern Iowa and hurt a lot of people. We were already busy and short staffed that day. I drove down myself to do the story, and we had to scrounge for photo stringers. Then in the middle of all that we got word that sheriff's deputies in a remote county seat had tranquilized a dumpster-diving bear and bundled it into a holding cell at the local police station to sleep it off. The Des Moines desk filed a "brite", but failed to get their hands on a photo. I got a rocket from HGB. I fired back my excuses, which earned me an even hotter rocket. The closing line was "Not clean, Dave, not clean." For days I felt ill-used. But by the time Hal came to my

retirement party 10 years ago, I admitted to him face to face I knew all along he was right. Derailment pictures far more shocking than ours that day are a dime a dozen, but to this day I still wish I could see a picture of that bear in the clink.

Additions to AP's news leadership team



Clockwise, from top left: Amanda Barrett, David Ake, Michael Giarrusso, Julie Pace, David Scott. (AP Photo)

Senior Vice President and Executive Editor Sally Buzbee announced Tuesday key changes to AP's senior news leadership team.

Here is her memo to staff:

I'm excited to tell you today about several changes to the senior leadership team in News, aimed at keeping our news report strong, mission driven and sharp, and aligning more closely with Products and Technology to drive AP's overall success.

To start, Washington Bureau Chief Julie Pace and Global Sports Editor Michael Giarrusso will become assistant managing editors and join the senior team. Their promotions recognize the importance of their two coverage areas to our global news report and their records of outstanding leadership.

Next, deputy managing editor Amanda Barrett will assume broad responsibility for digital content and our efforts to grow audience. Of course, serving our customers' growing digital needs is a top priority for every single part of News. Amanda's role will be to pull together and guide newsroom developers and others who create digital content, plus our direct-to-audience efforts, so that we can focus these efforts with

the most impact. This will be in addition to her responsibilities involving the Nerve Center, News staff diversity and inclusive storytelling.

In addition, befitting an organization with our rich history and vibrant future of visual journalism, Director of Photography David Ake will also become an assistant managing editor. And Deputy Managing Editor Derl McCrudden will focus squarely on video and audio, including emerging opportunities in streaming markets. Derl's role will encompass oversight of video in all its forms, working closely with the entire News management team as we meet customers' ever-growing and critical video needs both internationally and domestically.

Taken together, these changes ensure that video, photos, audio, digital and text are all represented on the senior team and can seamlessly interact going forward in a world where both our customers and our direct-to-audience efforts transcend any single format.

Finally, Deputy Managing Editor for Operations David Scott will become News' vice president and managing editor for operations, products and production. In this expanded role, David will serve as News' primary liaison with Revenue, Products and Technology as we create products from our journalism. He also will be the point person on how we produce, file and distribute our news report across formats globally. David will continue to oversee global News operations and the department's budget, expanding his focus to international staff and operational issues also.

In other top leadership roles: Brian Carovillano will continue as vice president and managing editor for news, overseeing day-to-day newsgathering and storytelling globally in all formats for both our hallmark breaking news report and enterprise/investigative. Ian Phillips remains as vice president and deputy managing editor for international, managing teams of journalists in Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America. Noreen Gillespie remains as deputy managing editor for U.S. news, overseeing our teams across America covering the nation, national beats and states. Sarah Nordgren continues as deputy managing editor for business, health and science, entertainment, religion and grants. Sandy Macintyre continues as vice president for key initiatives, focused on video and partnerships.

Please join me in congratulating Julie, Michael, Amanda, David A. and David S. on their new roles and promotions.

Click [here](#) for link to this story. Shared by Lauren Easton.

Connecting mailbox

Thanks for your donation to MS center



Brian Horton ([Email](#)) - A giant “thank you” to everyone who recently made a donation to the Robert Wood Johnson Center for MS, which helped my wife so much in the 13 years after she was disabled by MS. A few weeks ago, I pledged to send a copy of my book, “beaches, bays and back roads,” in exchange for a donation to the Center. The book is dedicated to my late wife, Marilyn Dillon, who died a year ago. I’m posing with part of the U.S. Mail shipment of 193 copies of the book which went out Monday. Readers should have the books within a week. Marilyn was my navigator and spotter on our almost-daily trips around our home on Long Beach Island and trips to the mainland areas around Barnegat Bay on the New Jersey coast. We would make several outings each week in search of sunsets, birds and humans doing interesting things. I drew from that library of photos to create the 84-page book of color photographs. In addition to the 193 distributed by mail, 57 are being delivered by hand to people on the island and nearby mainland areas who made donations.

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The Newspaper Man

THE NEWSPAPER MAN

BIT OF a priest and a bit of sailor,
Bit of a doctor and bit of a tailor,
Bit of a lawyer, and bit of detective,
Bit of a judge, for his work is corrective;
Cheering the living and soothing the dying,
Risking all things, even dare-devil flying;
True to his paper and true to his clan—
Just look him over, the newspaper man.

Sleep! There are times that he'll do with a little,
Work till his nerves and his temper are brittle;
Fire cannot daunt him, nor long hours disturb him,
Gold cannot buy him and threats cannot curb him;
Highbrow or lowbrow, your own speech he'll hand
you,
Talk as you will to him, he'll understand you;
He'll go wherever another man can—
That is the way of the newspaper man.

Surgeon, if urgent the need be, you'll find him,
Ready to help, nor will dizziness blind him;
He'll give the ether and never once falter,
Say the last rites like a priest at the altar;
Gentle and kind with the weak and the weary,
Which is proved now and then when his keen eye
grows teary;
Facing all things in life's curious plan—
That is the way of the newspaper man.

One night a week may he rest from his labor,
One night at home to be father and neighbor;
Just a few hours for his own bit of leisure,
All the rest's gazing at other men's pleasure,
All the rest's toiling, and yet he rejoices,
All the world is, and that men do, he voices—
Who knows a calling more glorious than
The day-by-day work of the newspaper man?

Ralph Gage ([Email](#)) - This is from the book "All that Matters," by Edgar A. Guest. It has a 1922 copyright by The Reilly & Lee Co. It has some illustrations, but none for this poem.

Connecting wishes Happy Birthday



Amanda Lynn Barnett - amandalynnbarnett@gmail.com

Hal Buell - hbuell@lanline.com

Elijah Decious - ecdecious@gmail.com

Betsy Brown Kraft - betsybkraft@gmail.com

Stories of interest

'Punched-in-the-gut feeling.' Gannett under fire for paying some women nearly \$30,000 less than male peers (CNN)

By Kerry Flynn, CNN Business

New York (CNN Business) - "I remember the punched-in-the-gut feeling I had the moment I learned that a young male reporter with just a few years of experience had nearly the exact same salary that I had, despite my two decades as a working journalist."

"Some reporters with advanced degrees earn less than \$20 per hour. How are people supposed to live on that?"

"I am alarmed by the lack of mid-career female representation in our newsrooms and the dismal retention of female reporting talent. I can't help but worry that I will become one of those vanishing statistics."

These are some of the personal testimonies published Tuesday by the NewsGuild, a labor union that represents thousands of journalists, in a small study of 14 unionized newsrooms owned by media conglomerate Gannett (GCI). The study relied on fall 2020 salary and demographic data from 466 employees at those newsrooms, including The Arizona Republic, the Indianapolis Star and the Palm Beach Post.

Read more [here](#).

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No longer a holdout for free, USA Today launches a paywall and digital-only subscription plan (Poynter)

By: Rick Edmonds

Content on USA Today's main digital news site has always been free. No longer. Earlier this month, Gannett's flagship national paper quietly started to put some of its premium stories behind a paywall.

Those interested in reading further are asked to sign up for a digital-only subscription at \$4.99 a month.

USA Today published a short note to potential digital subscribers, but Gannett otherwise has not announced the pivot to paid digital. A spokesperson described the offering as a test but said the company would not be willing to discuss business details until later this quarter.

Read more [here](#).

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Report for America fights crisis in local news, expands into 200-plus newsrooms with 300 journalists (Report for America)

By SAM KILLE

Report for America today announced the placements of some 300 journalists for its 2021 reporting corps. The cohort, which includes a number of corps members returning for a second or third year, will join the staffs of more than 200 local news organizations across 49 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam.

The corps is diverse—with 135 journalists of color—at 45%, more than double the percentage found in the majority of America's newsrooms. By better reflecting their communities, Report for America's partner newsrooms will be better positioned to gain the trust of their audiences, amidst the national reckoning on race.

These reporting positions come at a critical moment, when many local newsrooms are closing—leaving a vacuum of trusted, accurate information that is being filled by partisan news sites and online disinformation that threaten our democracy.

Read more [here](#).

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Reporter resigns from NY Post over Harris book story (The Hill)

By Jordan Williams

A reporter for the New York Post whose byline appeared on a story suggesting that copies of a book by Vice President Harris was given to children who crossed the U.S.-Mexico border has resigned.

Laura Italiano announced on Twitter that she turned in her resignation on Tuesday. She claimed that she unsuccessfully tried to push back against the story, and called it her "breaking point."

"An announcement: Today I handed in my resignation to my editors at the New York Post," Italiano tweeted.

"The Kamala Harris story - an incorrect story I was ordered to write and which I failed to push back hard enough against - was my breaking point," she said. "It's been a privilege to cover the City of New York for its liveliest, wittiest tabloid - a paper filled with reporters and editors I admire deeply and hold as friends. I'm sad to leave."

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

Today in History - April 28, 2021



By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, April 28, the 118th day of 2021. There are 247 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 28, 1967, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali was stripped of his title after he refused to be inducted into the armed forces.

On this date:

In 1788, Maryland became the seventh state to ratify the Constitution of the United States.

In 1945, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and his mistress, Clara Petacci, were executed by Italian partisans as they attempted to flee the country.

In 1952, war with Japan officially ended as a treaty signed in San Francisco the year before took effect. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower resigned as Supreme Allied commander in Europe; he was succeeded by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway.

In 1958, the United States conducted the first of 35 nuclear test explosions in the Pacific Proving Ground as part of Operation Hardtack I. Vice President Richard Nixon and his wife, Pat, began a goodwill tour of Latin America that was marred by hostile mobs in Lima, Peru, and Caracas, Venezuela.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter accepted the resignation of Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance, who had opposed the failed rescue mission aimed at freeing American hostages in Iran. (Vance was succeeded by Edmund Muskie.)

In 1986, the Soviet Union informed the world of the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl.

In 1988, a flight attendant was killed and more than 60 persons injured when part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines Boeing 737 tore off during a flight from Hilo (HEE'-loh) to Honolulu.

In 1994, former CIA official Aldrich Ames, who had passed U.S. secrets to the Soviet Union and then Russia, pleaded guilty to espionage and tax evasion, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

In 2001, a Russian rocket lifted off from Central Asia bearing the first space tourist, California businessman Dennis Tito, and two cosmonauts on a journey to the international space station.

In 2010, Coast Guard Rear Adm. Mary Landry said a massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was worse than officials had believed, and that the federal government was offering to help industry giant BP contain the slick threatening the U.S. shoreline.

In 2015, urging Americans to "do some soul-searching," President Barack Obama expressed deep frustration over recurring black deaths at the hands of police, rioters who responded with senseless violence and a society that would only "feign concern" without addressing the root causes.

In 2019, former Republican Sen. Richard Lugar of Indiana, a leading voice on foreign policy during his 36 years in the Senate, died at a hospital in Virginia at the age of 87. "Avengers: Endgame" shattered the record for biggest opening weekend with an estimated \$350 million in ticket sales domestically and \$1.2 billion globally.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama reshuffled his national security team, with CIA Director Leon Panetta succeeding Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Gen. David Petraeus replacing Panetta at the CIA. Convicted sex offender Phillip Garrido and his wife, Nancy, pleaded guilty to kidnapping and raping a California girl, Jaycee Dugard, who was abducted in 1991 at the age of 11 and rescued 18 years later. (Phillip Garrido was sentenced to 431 years to life in prison; Nancy Garrido was sentenced to 36 years to life in prison.) Canada's Patrick Chan won the world figure skating championships in Moscow.

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden pressed Iraq during an unannounced visit not to let its crippling political crisis upend hard-fought gains against the Islamic State group.

One year ago: President Donald Trump signed an executive order under the Defense Production Act to keep meat packing plants open; it classified meat processing as critical infrastructure. The Navy said the number of sailors aboard the USS Kidd who had tested positive for the coronavirus had risen to 64, or about one-fifth of the destroyer's crew. Joe Biden won Ohio's presidential primary, the first major test of statewide elections via mail amid the virus outbreak. Hillary Clinton became the latest Democrat to endorse Biden as the party continued its unification efforts. Democrat Kweisi Mfume easily won a special election to complete the term of the late Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Today's Birthdays: Former Secretary of State James A. Baker III is 91. Actor-singer Ann-Margret is 80. Actor Paul Guilfoyle is 72. Former "Tonight Show" host Jay Leno is 71. Rock musician Chuck Leavell is 69. Actor Mary McDonnell is 69. Rock singer-musician Kim Gordon (Sonic Youth) is 68. Actor Nancy Lee Grahn is 65. Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan is 61. Rapper Too Short is 55. Actor Bridget Moynahan is 50. Actor Chris Young is 50. Rapper Big Gipp is 49. Actor Jorge Garcia is 48. Actor Elisabeth Rohm is 48. Actor Penelope Cruz is 47. Actor Nate Richert is 43. TV personalities Drew and Jonathan Scott are 43. Actor Jessica Alba is 40. Actor Harry Shum Jr. is 39. Actor Jenna Ushkowitz is 35. Actor Aleisha Allen is 30.

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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